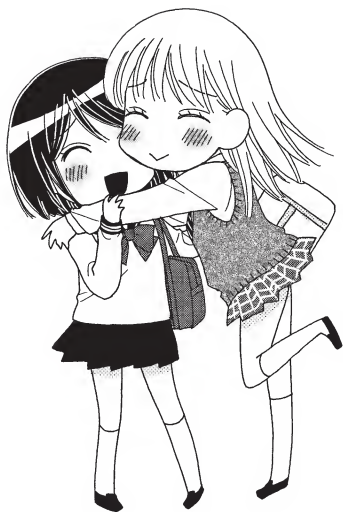


Kisses, Sighs, and Cherry Blossom Pink

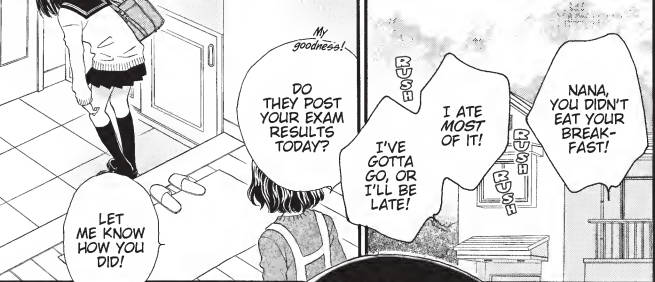
2



Story & Art by yuri icon **MILK MORINAGA**



*Kisses, Sighs, and
Cherry Blossom Pink.*



My goodness!

DO THEY POST YOUR EXAM RESULTS TODAY?

I'VE GOTTA GO, OR I'LL BE LATE!

I ATE MOST OF IT!

NANA, YOU DIDN'T EAT YOUR BREAK-FAST!

LET ME KNOW HOW YOU DID!



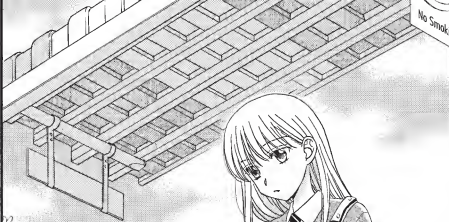
EXAMS ARE FINALLY OVER...

AND I GET TO RIDE MY USUAL BUS TODAY.

UH, SURE...

SEE YA LATER!

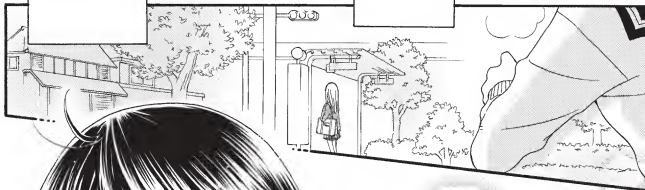
I'M HANGING OUT WITH A FRIEND AFTERWARD, SO I'LL BE HOME LATE.



SO IT'S
BEEN
A WHILE
SINCE
WE RODE
THE BUS
TOGETHER.

AND OUR
SCHEDULES
NEVER
MATCHED
UP...

HITOMI'S
EXAMS
ENDED
JUST AS
MINE
STARTED...



IT'S
BEEN
TEN
DAYS...

SINCE I
SAW HER
SMILE.

HITOMI!!

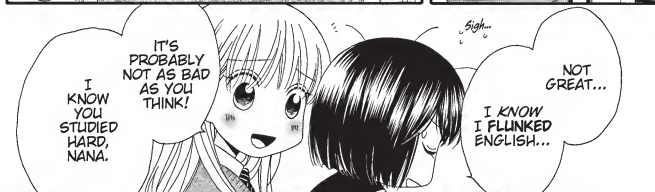


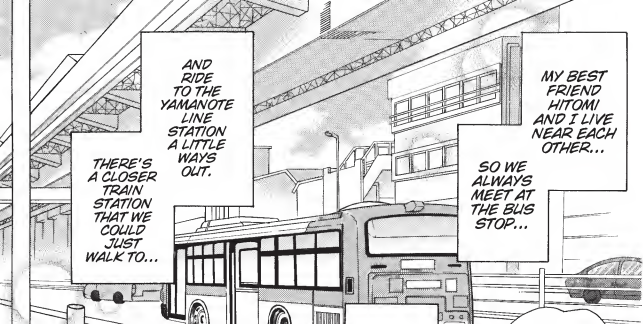
CHAPTER 8 SECRET LOVERS



NANA!

THERE
YOU
ARE!





THERE'S
A CLOSER
TRAIN
STATION
THAT WE
COULD
JUST
WALK TO...

AND
RIDE
TO THE
YAMANOTE
LINE
STATION
A LITTLE
WAYS
OUT.

MY BEST
FRIEND
HITOMI!
AND I LIVE
NEAR EACH
OTHER...

SO WE
ALWAYS
MEET AT
THE BUS
STOP...



WE
MESSED
UP A
NAME.

AND WE
EMBROID-
ERED
THEIR
NAMES
ON THEIR
TOWELS,
BUT...

JUST SO
WE CAN
SPEND
MORE
TIME TO-
GETHER.

BUT WE
ALWAYS
TAKE THE
LONGER
ROUTE...

WE
GAVE THE
THIRD YEAR
STUDENTS
SOME SPORT
TOWELS AS
GIFTS...

UH-
HUH.

OH
NO!!

*That's not
good!*

*The team
captain,
of all
people.*



KOHOKU
ROKUCHOME
DANCHIMAE,
KOHOKU
ROKUCHOME
DANCHIMAE...

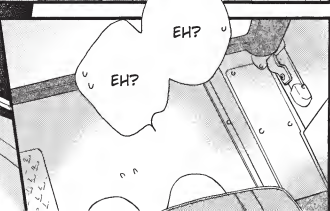
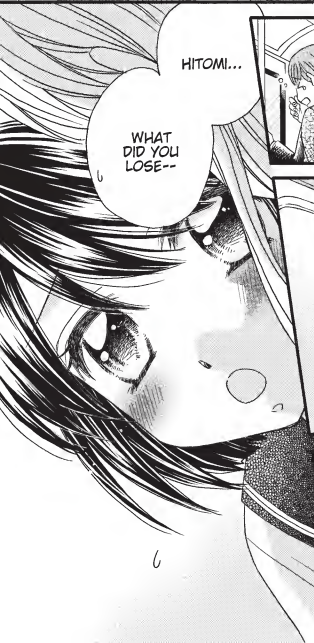
LUCKILY
ONE OF THE
FIRST YEAR
STUDENTS
KNOWS
EMBROIDERY,
SO SHE
FIXED IT.

WE
NOTICED
IT THAT
MORNING...

AND
TOTALLY
PANICKED!

SQUEEK









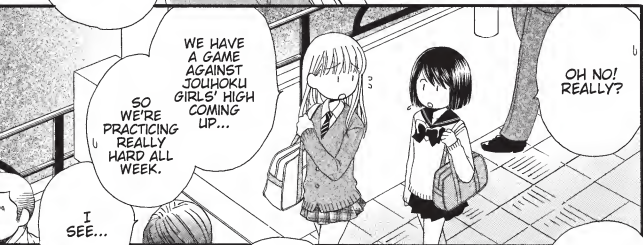
SO
TODAY'S
NO GOOD.

AH...

SORRY, BUT
PRACTICE
GOES LATE
TONIGHT...

I'll be
done by
noon...

AT LEAST
WE CAN
SEE EACH
OTHER
AFTER
SCHOOL.

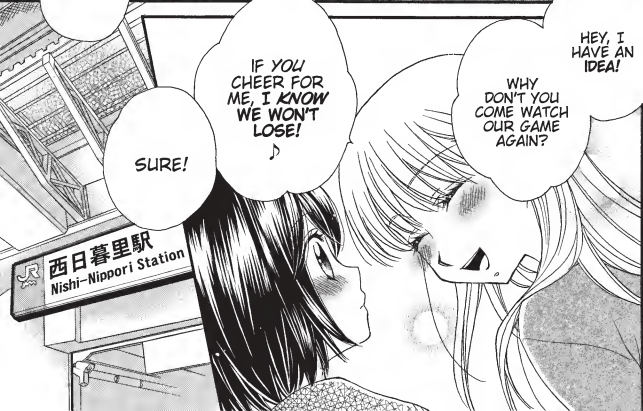


WE HAVE
A GAME
AGAINST
JOUJOKU
GIRLS' HIGH
COMING
UP...

SO
WE'RE
PRACTICING
REALLY
HARD ALL
WEEK.

OH NO!
REALLY?

I
SEE...



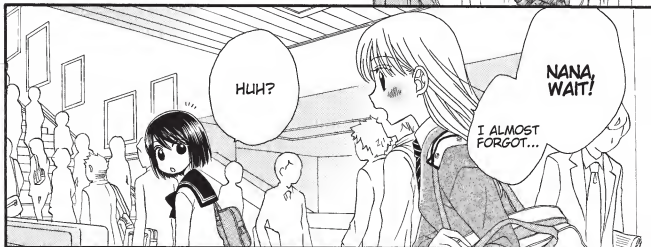
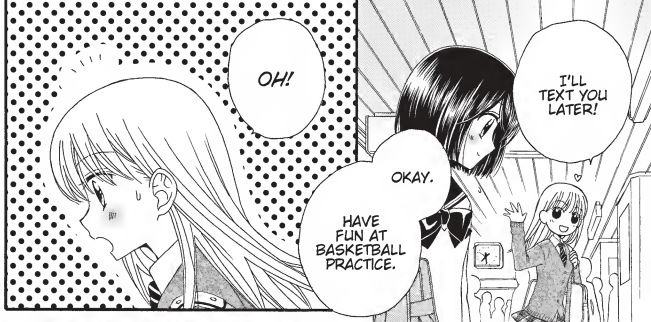
IF YOU
CHEER FOR
ME, I KNOW
WE WON'T
LOSE!

SURE!

HEY, I
HAVE AN
IDEA!

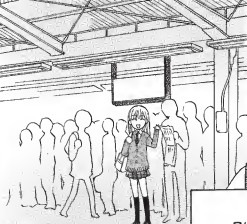
WHY
DON'T YOU
COME WATCH
OUR GAME
AGAIN?

西日暮里駅
Nishi-Nippori Station



*In Japan, March 14 is a chance for men to reciprocate for Valentine's Day gifts.





THAT'S
SO
SWEET...

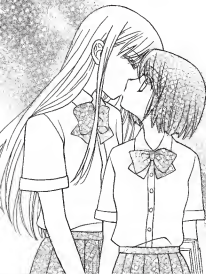
BUT
I'M STILL
BUMMED
THAT WE
CAN'T
MEET
AFTER
SCHOOL.

I KNOW
BASKET-
BALL'S
IMPORTANT
TO HER,
BUT...



I IGNORED
HITOMI'S TRUE
FEELINGS...

AND
PUSHED
HER
AWAY.



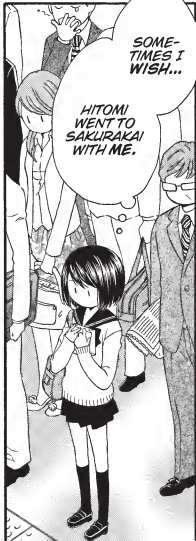
BUT...

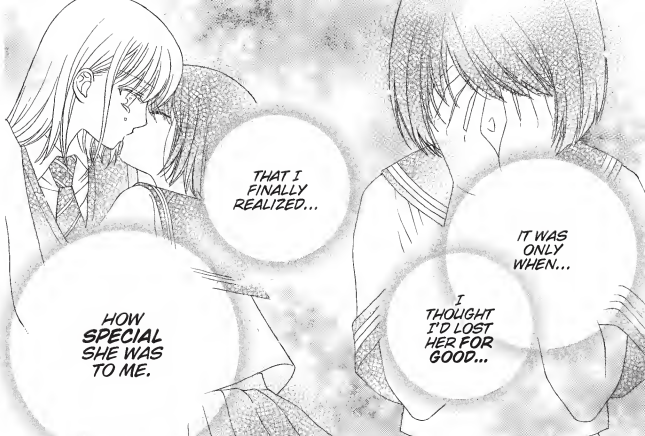
I HAD MY
CHANCE.



SOME-
TIMES I
WISH...

HITOMI
WENT TO
SAKURAKAI
WITH ME.





THAT I
FINALLY
REALIZED...

IT WAS
ONLY
WHEN...

I
THOUGHT
I'D LOST
HER FOR
GOOD...

HOW
SPECIAL
SHE WAS
TO ME.



WE'VE
ALSO...

MADE
LOVE...

OH!
WHAT A
CUTE LIP
GLOSS...

BUT
THAT
DIDN'T
STOP US
FROM
FALLING
IN LOVE.

WE'RE
BOTH
GIRLS...

DOOOOM

あーん

GOOD
MORNING,
NANA-
CHIN!

HI,
EVERY-
ONE.

Sakurakai Girls' High School

UH,
MORN-
ING...

I'M
FINE...

HI...

NANA-
CHIN...

HI,
ABE-
CHAN...

HOW
ARE
YOU?

WHO
CARES
ABOUT
STUPID
EXAMS?!

IN
FACT...

EXAMS
...?

SO,
WE'RE
GETTING
OUR EXAM
RESULTS
TODAY,
HUH?

GUH...

Siiiiigh...

YOU
KNOW
WHAT?

ABE-CHAN
HAS BEEN
DEPRESSED
FOR A
WHILE.

DOOM



WHY DO I
BOTHER
TO COME
AT ALL?!

SINCE
TACHIBANA-
SAN IS NO
LONGER
GOING
TO THIS
SCHOOL...



At the graduation ceremony, Tachibana-san was ordered to dress as a prince and hand out roses.

Abe-chan couldn't reach her...

Don't leave us!

SQUEE!

ABE-CHAN HAS BEEN LIKE THIS EVER SINCE.

WAAA

WAAA

WAAA

WAAA

TACHIBANA-SAN,
ABE-CHAN'S FAVORITE
SEMPAI...

GRADUATED EARLIER
THIS MONTH.



TA...

TACHIBANA-SAN...

WE'RE ALL
SAD TO
SEE TACHI-
BANA-SAN
GRADUATE.

OUT OF ALL
HER FANS,
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
TACHIBANA-
SAN'S
FAVORITE.

YEAH,
WEREN'T
YOU IN THE
DRAMA CLUB
TOGETHER,
ABECCHI?

DIDN'T YOU
EXCHANGE
EMAIL
ADDRESSES
WITH
TACHIBANA-
SAN?

Why
don't
you
text
her?

OR
SEND A
TELEGRAM...

SO I CAN
ONLY CALL
HER HOME
PHONE...

SHE
DOESN'T
HAVE
A CELL
PHONE...

OR
SEND A
TELEGRAM...

SO I CAN
ONLY CALL
HER HOME
PHONE...

PHONE...

くううううう
GLOOOOOM

MAYBE ABE-CHAN'S FEELINGS FOR TACHI-BANA...

ARE THE SAME AS MY FEELINGS FOR HITOMI.

DID ABE-CHAN...

OR DO OTHER STUFF WITH TACHI-BANA-SAN?

EVER KISS...

DID
ABE-
CHAN...

OR DO
OTHER
STUFF
WITH
TACHI-
BANA-
SAN?

EVER
KISS...

I
WONDER...

GLANCE

I WONDER...

GLANCE



ACTU-
ALLY...

ARE SEX
CRAZED
OR ANY-
THING...

WOW I

IT'S
NOT LIKE
HITOMI
AND I...

WELL,
UHH...

WE'VE
ONLY
DONE IT
A FEW
TIMES.

I'M
NOT...

QUITE
SURE...



WHAT
EXACTLY
DO YOU
HAVE TO
DO...

FOR
IT TO
COUNT
AS
SEX?

WHEN
GIRLS
DO IT....

I HAVE A
LOT OF
QUESTI-
ONS...

BUT...

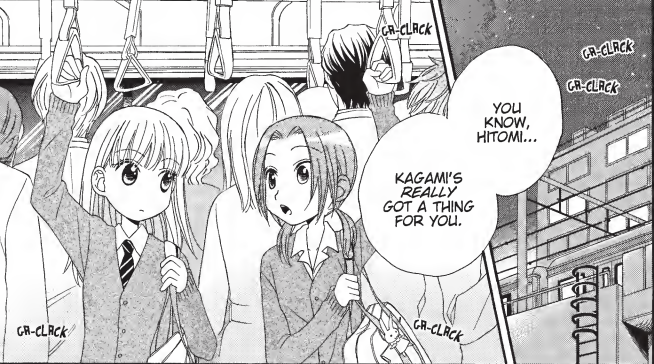


WHO TO
ASK...

I DON'T
KNOW...







YOU
KNOW,
HITOMI...

KAGAMI'S
REALLY
GOT A THING
FOR YOU.

WELL,
MOST OF
THE FIRST
YEARS...

AND
SECOND
YEAR GIRLS
FOR THAT
MATTER...

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



BUT
KAGAMI...

ONLY
HAS EYES
FOR YOU.



Kawashima
Next team
captain

TEND TO
FALL FOR
EITHER...

KAWASHIMA
OR KANOU.

YEAH,
THEY'RE
PRETTY
POPULAR.

SQUEE!

SQUEE!

Kanou-san
Loses Slam
Dunk



KAGAMI
MADE IT
CLEAR IT
WASN'T
LIKE THAT,
REMEMBER?

DON'T BE
STUPID!

MAYBE
SHE'S
ACTUALLY IN
LOVE WITH
YOU!

YEAH, BUT
SHE MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
LYING.

BUT...



WOULD
YOU GO
OUT WITH
ANOTHER
GIRL?

.....



PFFFT!

I KNOW,
RIGHT?

AHAHAHA!
HELL NO!!

IT WOULD
BE SOOOOO
WEIRD!

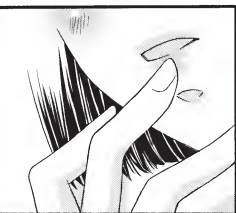
Ha
ha
ha!

Stop it
already!

Noisy
teens...

NO
ONE...

UNDER-
STANDS.



IT'S
SOME-
THING...

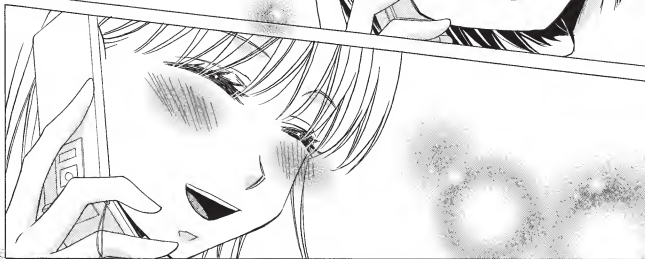
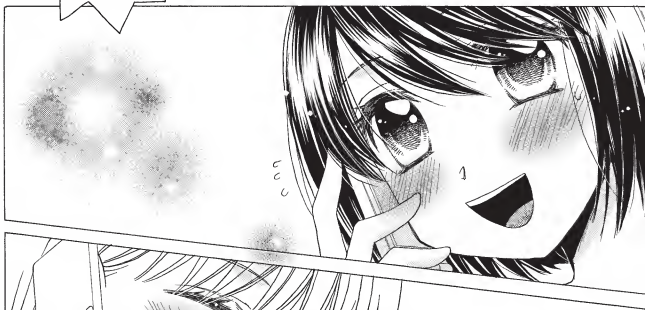
BETWEEN
JUST THE
TWO OF
US.



WE'RE
CONNECT-
ED...

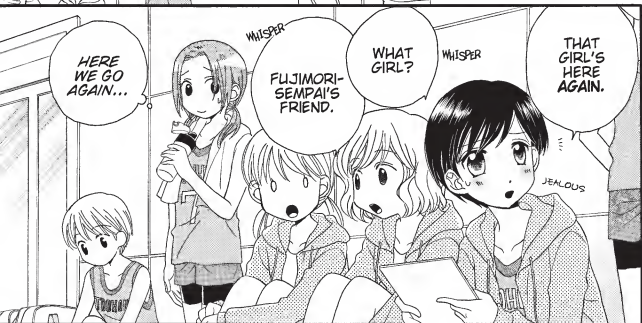
BY A
STRONG
BOND...

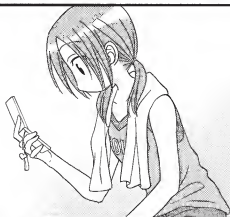
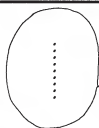
THAT
NO
ONE
ELSE
HAS.



THAT WAS THE
ONLY THING THAT
MATTERED...

OUR ONLY TRUTH.





CHAPTER 8 END





くちびるためいきさくらいろ

kuchibiru Tameiki Sakurairo



AFTER SPRING
BREAK WE
BECAME
THIRD YEAR
STUDENTS.

TIME
WAS
GOING
BY SO
QUICKLY.

AN ONLINE
MESSAGE
BOARD?

FOR
WHAT?

OUTSIDERS
2011/05/12 (THU)
AT OUR LAST GAME,
THERE WAS A STUDENT
FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL
WHO CAME TO OUR BENCH!
OUTSIDERS SHOULDN'T
BE ALLOWED IN OUR AREA!
QUESTION ☆ - MIKA
2011/05/08 (SUN)
LOOKING FORWARD
TO THE NEXT GAME.
NOT SURE HOW
TO GET THERE.
PLEASE TELL ME.

I DON'T
KNOW WHO
WROTE IT,
BUT...

Oh.
THE
BASKET-
BALL TEAM
HAS A WEB-
PAGE?

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!

IT'S PART
OF OUR
BASKETBALL
TEAM'S
WEBPAGE!

COACH
YOSHI
WOULD
CRY
IF SHE
HEARD
YOU...

SHE
PUTS IN
A LOT OF
EFFORT
UPDATING
IT.

YOU CAN SEE
THE FORUM
TOPICS ON
YOUR CELL.

TAKE A
LOOK.

HM?

CHAPTER 9 CLASSMATE





DON'T YOU WANT ME TO CHEER FOR YOU?

WHAT?

DON'T COME TO THE GAME NEXT WEEK?



I MIGHT NOT HAVE TIME TO TALK TO YOU.

SO EVEN IF YOU CAME...

I DO! I REALLY DO, BUT...

I'M A THIRD YEAR NOW, AND I HAVE A LOT MORE RESPONSIBILITIES.



THERE ARE SOME ERRANDS I NEED TO DO ANYWAY, SO I'LL DO THAT INSTEAD.

IT'S OKAY, I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT YOU ARE TO THE TEAM.

AND ABE-CHAN WANTED TO GO SHOPPING WITH ME, SO...

AND I PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO HOME WITH YOU AFTER ANYWAY.

I DON'T WANT TO WASTE YOUR PRECIOUS DAY OFF.

.....

GRAB

I'M
SORRY...

?

IT'S OKAY,
REALLY!

YOU AND
NANA-
CHAN ARE
CHILDHOOD
FRIENDS,
RIGHT?

UM,
I'M NOT
SURE HOW
TO SAY
THIS--

SAY
WHAT?

IT'S NICE OF
HER TO BRING
YOU SNACKS
AND STUFF...

BUT...



ARE
YOU
GUYS...



REALLY
JUST
FRIENDS?

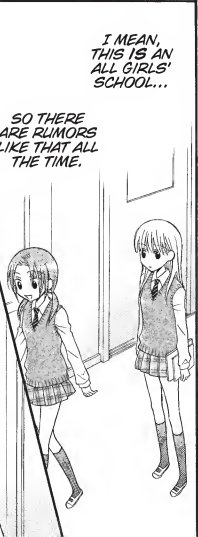


THAT'S
NASTY!!
IT'S NOT
LIKE
THAT!!



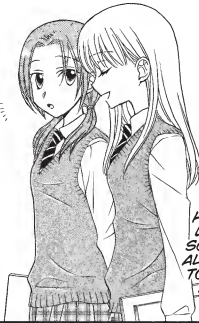
I'M SORRY,
I KNOW IT'S
NONE OF MY
BUSINESS...

IT'S YOUR
LIFE, YOU CAN
DO WHATEVER
YOU WANT.



I MEAN,
THIS IS AN
ALL GIRLS'
SCHOOL...

SO THERE
ARE RUMORS
LIKE THAT ALL
THE TIME.



WE ARE
REALLY
CLOSE...
BUT WE'RE
MORE LIKE
SISTERS
THAN
ANYTHING
ELSE.

OH...

SO, YEAH,
THAT'S ALL
I WANTED
TO SAY...

NANA-
CHAN...

LIVES
NEAR MY
HOUSE AND
UNTIL HIGH
SCHOOL WE'D
ALWAYS GONE
TO THE SAME
SCHOOLS.



IT'S
OKAY. I
SHOULD BE
FOCUSING
MORE ON
THE GAME
ANYWAY.

THANKS
FOR THE
HEADS UP!



BUT
I GUESS
SOME PEOPLE
DON'T WANT
STUDENTS FROM
OTHER SCHOOLS
HANGING OUT
NEAR OUR
BENCH.

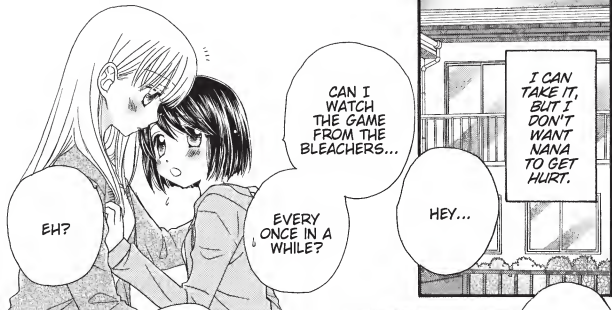


THE
COMMENTS
ON THE
FORUM
AREN'T
TOO BAD
NOW...

SURE!

BUT THEY
COULD GET
WORSE IF
WE'RE NOT
CAREFUL.







AND THERE
AREN'T
TOO MANY
STUDENTS
AROUND.

DON'T
WORRY!
MY TEAM
DOESN'T
HAVE
PRACTICE
TODAY...

ARE YOU
SURE ABOUT
THIS? WHAT
IF WE GET
CAUGHT?

UHM...

Let's
go!

IT'S
SUNDAY.
MOST
OF THE
TEACHERS
AREN'T
EVEN
HERE.

B-BUT I'M
WEARING
THE WINTER
UNIFORM...

THERE'S
A SECURITY
GUARD, BUT
HE WON'T
SUSPECT
ANYTHING.

AND IF A
TEACHER
SEES ME--

B-
BUT...

DON'T
WORRY SO
MUCH!

BESIDES,
NANA...

I'M
HERE TO
PROTECT
YOU.



SPENDS
MOST
OF HER
DAYS.

THIS
IS...

WHERE
HITOMI...

O-
OKAY.

SHOW ME
WHAT YOUR
SCHOOL
IS LIKE.



THIS
IS MY
CLASSROOM!

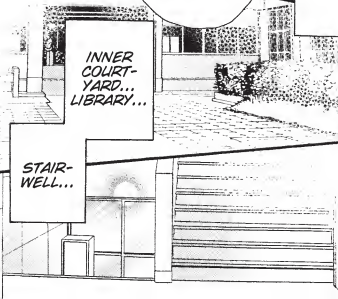


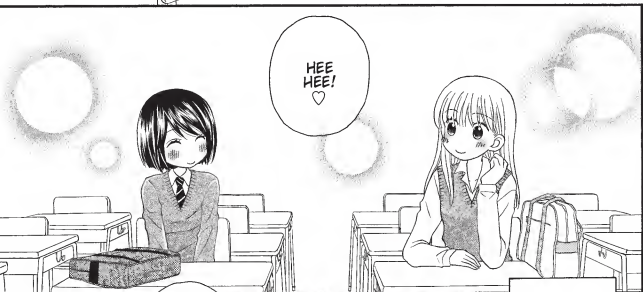
THEY DID
A LOT OF
RENOVATIONS
JUST BEFORE
I STARTED
HERE.

THE
SHOE
LOCKERS...

INNER
COURT-
YARD...
LIBRARY...

STAIR-
WELL...







HITOMI
IS RIGHT
THERE.



THINGS
ARE
DIFFERENT
NOW.

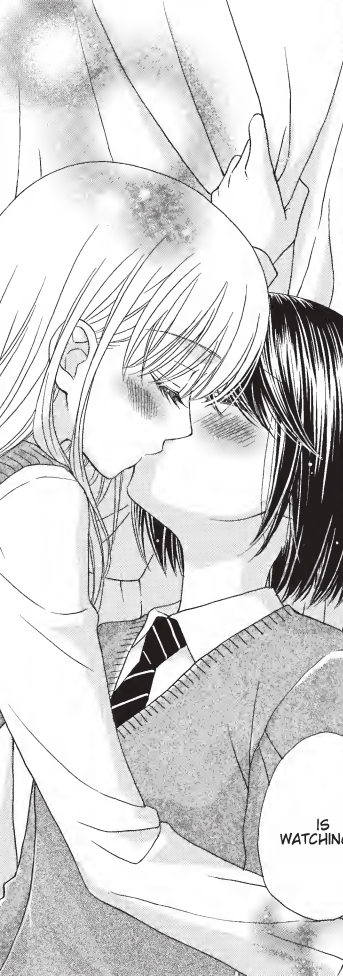
BUT IF
WE WENT
TO THE
SAME
SCHOOL...

I-I WONDER...

IF WE'D
EVER
SNEAK...

KISSES
DURING
CLASS.

M-E-R-Z-O



HUH?!



I KNOW!
I WAS
JUST
BEING
SILLY!

IT'S A
LITTLE
RISKY AT
SCHOOL.

I DON'T
KNOW...

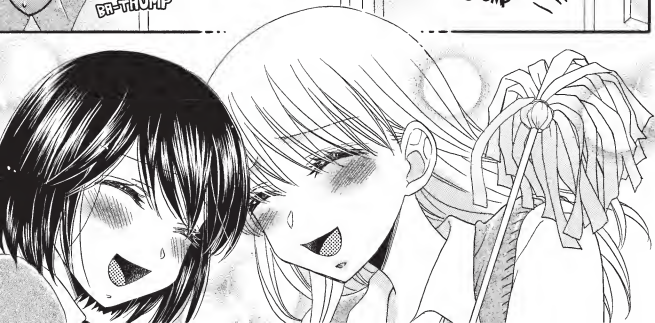
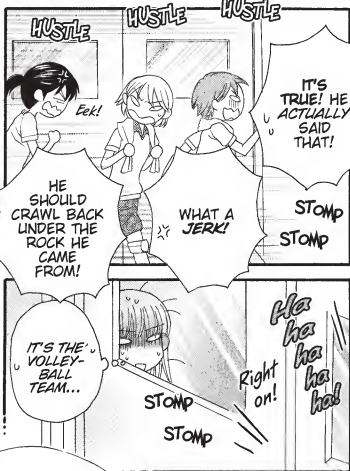
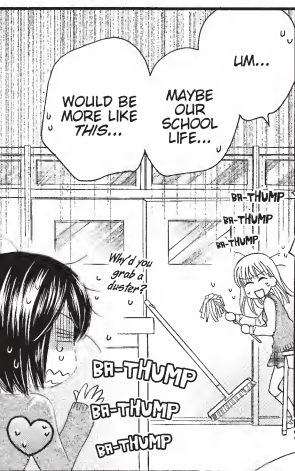


BUT...

IF NO
ONE...

IS
WATCHING...









I'M
GOING TO
BE SMILING
ALL DAY
IN CLASS
TOMORROW.

NANA
WAS SO
CUTE!

Hee
Hee!

Wah!

NANA'S
SO NICE...

Hitomi
didn't
notice.

Toss

LIKE
THIS...?

SHE
INSISTED
ON WASHING
MY SHIRT
BEFORE
RETURNING
IT.

Hitomi,
run the
washer!

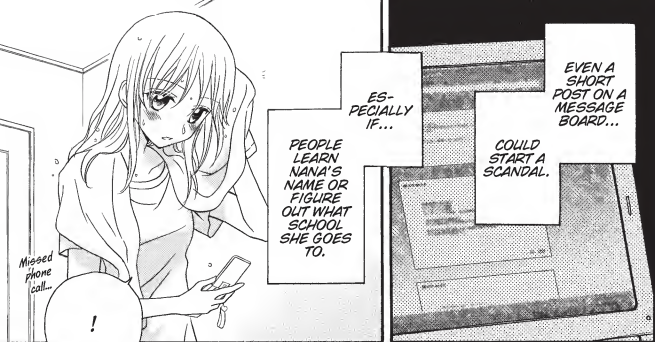
BUT...

I'M SO
GLAD...

RUMORS
LIKE THAT
SPREAD
LIKE WILD-
FIRE.

GOD KNOWS
HOW THE
OTHER GIRLS
MIGHT HAVE
GOSSIPED
ABOUT US.

THAT WE
DIDN'T
GO TO
THE SAME
SCHOOL.





HM?
YEAH?

OH YEAH...
SPEAKING
OF CAMP...

SO...
THE
NATIONAL
TOURNA-
MENT IS
COMING
UP...

A
ha!
ha!

WE'LL GET
TO SEE WHAT
THE NEW GIRLS
ARE MADE OF
AT TRAINING
CAMP!

WELL...
IT'S
JUST...

WHAT?



I NEED
YOUR
ADVICE ON
SOMETHING.

UHM...

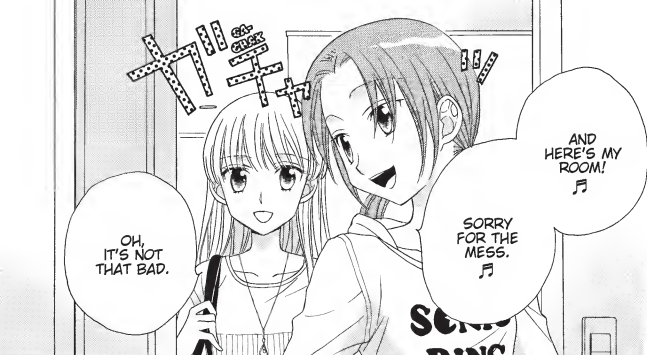
BEFORE
WE GO...

ABOUT
WHAT?



UHH, I'D
RATHER
TALK TO
YOU IN
PERSON,
SO...

CAN YOU
SLEEP
OVER
AT MY
HOUSE?



OH,
IT'S NOT
THAT BAD.

SORRY
FOR THE
MESS.
♪

AND
HERE'S MY
ROOM!
♪



NICE TRY,
BUT I HAVE
NO SHAME!
TO LOVE ME
IS TO
LOVE MY
MESSINESS!

Not
me!

TO
SHOW
SOMEONE
THEIR
ROOM
WHEN
IT'S THIS
MESSY.

MOST PEOPLE
WOULD
FEEL
TOO EMBAR-
RASSED...



Often buys the same
stuff by mistake.

AH!

DON'T
LOOK AT
THOSE!

WHY DO
YOU HAVE
TWO COPIES
OF THE
SAME
MANGA?



DISASTER
AREA

WHOA!

NEVER-
MIND...
I TAKE IT
BACK.

IT...
IT WAS
EVEN
WORSE
BEFORE.

CHAPTER 10 BEFORE THE STORM





AND
WHEN I
BIT INTO
WHAT I
THOUGHT
WAS A
REGULAR
POTATO...

THE
OTHER
NIGHT
SHE PUT
DRIED
PLUMS
IN THE
CURRY...

AND SHE
BARELY
KNOWS
HOW TO
MAKE
THEM!

NOT
REALLY.
SHE ONLY
KNOWS
HOW
TO MAKE
A FEW
DISHES.

Ha
ha
ha!

DINNER
WAS
DELICIOUS.
YOUR MOM'S
A REALLY
GOOD COOK!

IT
TURNED
OUT TO
BE A
YAM!!

SERI-
OUSLY?

I NEVER
THOUGHT
I'D
MAKE A
FRIEND...

THAT I
COULD
BE
CLOSE
TO,
OTHER
THAN
NANA.

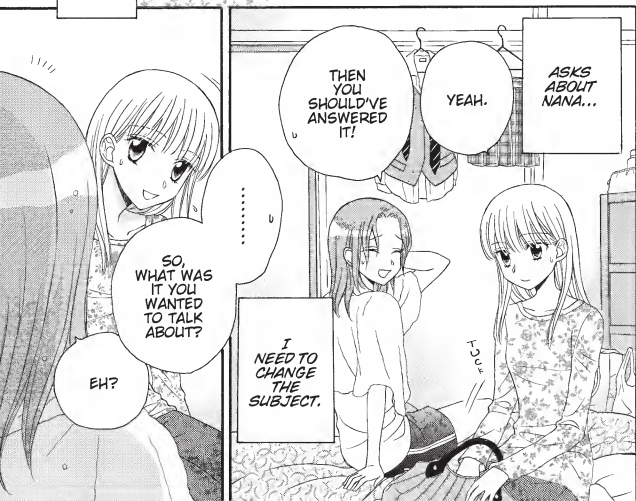
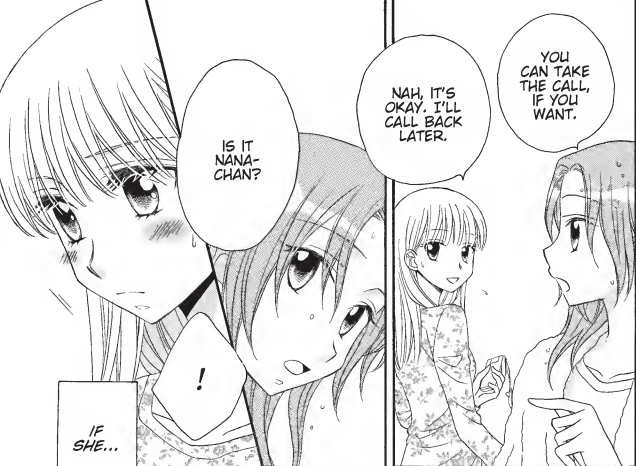
IT'S
NANA.

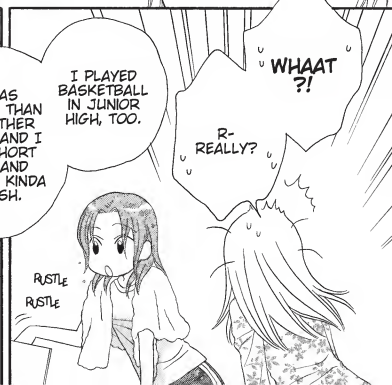
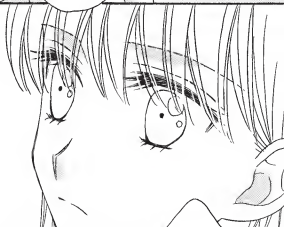
WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

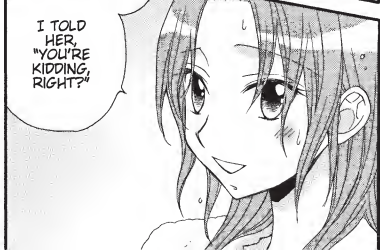
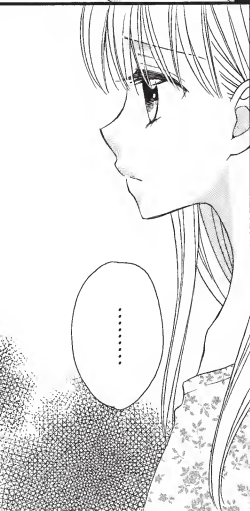
VRRR

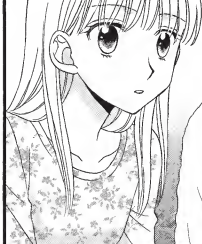
AH...

VRRR









IT'S
NOT
REAL
LOVE.

I
MEAN,
THINK
ABOUT
IT...



ARE ONLY
USING THEM
AS PLACE-
HOLDERS
UNTIL THEY
FIND A GUY
THEY LIKE.

EVEN
THE GIRLS
SWOONING
OVER KANOLI
AND KAWA-
SHIMA...



THE
GIRLS SAY
THEY'RE
AFRAID
OR HATE
BOYS, BUT
REALLY...



ARE
THERE ANY
BOYS YOU
LIKE?

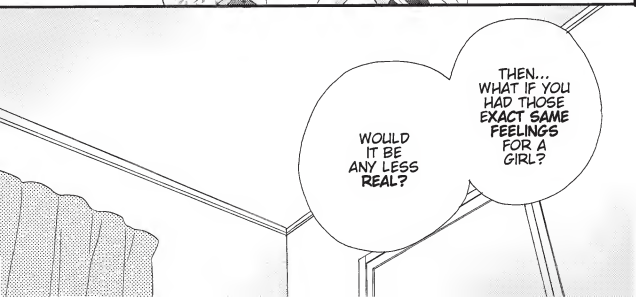
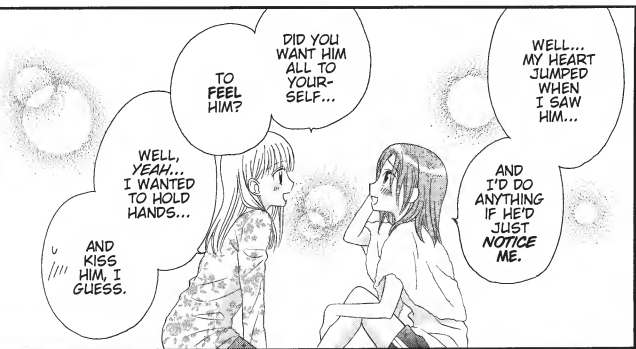
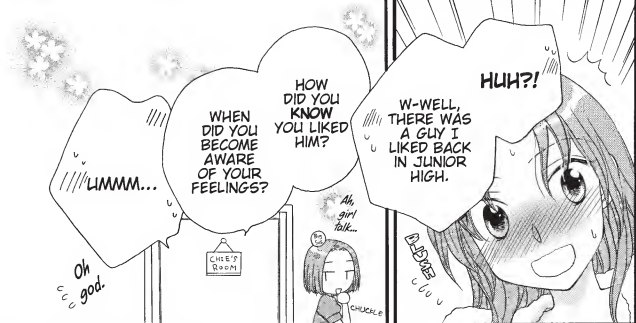


SERIOUSLY,
SAME-SEX
LOVE...

GOES
AGAINST
EVERYTHING
NATURAL.

CHIE-
CHAN...

HM?





BUT
I...

I NEVER
KNEW THE
GIRL WHO
LIKED YOU, SO
I DON'T KNOW
FOR SURE
WHAT WAS IN
HER HEART...



.....



I
THINK IT
WAS...

REAL
LOVE.

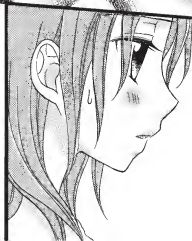
MY
HEART
SKIPS
WHEN
I'M WITH
HER...

AND I'M
HAPPIER
JUST BEING
NEXT HER.

I WANT
HER ALL TO
MYSELF.

I WANT TO
HOLD HER IN
MY ARMS AND
FEEL HER.

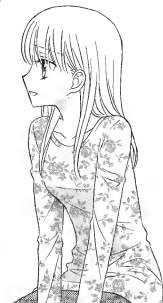
AND I
NEVER
WANT TO
LET HER
GO.



ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT...

I'M
GOING
OUT
WITH
NANA-
CHAN.

YEAH.



I
FINALLY
...

CAME
OUT.



OH...
S-
SERIOUSLY?

YOU'RE
PROBABLY
GROSSED
OUT, HUH?

.....

I KINDA
SUSPECTED
ANYWAY.

OH,
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT...

I'M
SORRY
FOR NOT
COMING
CLEAN
EARLIER.

BE-
CAUSE...





HUH?

I DIDN'T WANT...

MY
FRIEND
TO
THINK...

WHY WOULD
I BE
GROSSED
OUT? I
TOLD YOU
I WAS FINE
EITHER WAY.

THAT MY
FEELINGS
WEREN'T
REAL.



OH, THAT?
I JUST
SAID THAT
TO GET A
REACTION
OUT
OF YOU.

*I'm
jealous!*

*Wow, Hitomi,
your hair
dries fast!*

BUT YOU
JUST SAID
IT WAS UN-
NATURAL.

...
...
...
HUH...?



IT WAS
TOUGH,
SINCE YOU
CAN BE
PRETTY
ALOOF.

YOU'D
FINALLY
TALK TO ME
ABOUT IT.

BUT I
KNEW
IF I
BROUGHT
IT UP
FIRST...

YOU DON'T
REALLY LET
PEOPLE IN
EASILY.



*She
tricked
me?*

WHAT
THE--?

It gets worse.

SHE DID ADMIT HER FEELINGS TO ME, BUT...

OH, MY STORY ABOUT THE GIRL WAS TRUE.

!! shock !!

!!

But she threw me for a loop.

I mean, I really thought hard about my answer...

After that, she got a boyfriend.

I TOOK IT KIND OF HARD.

I WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO ACCEPT HER FEELINGS... BUT SHE WASN'T THAT SERIOUS AFTER ALL.

I NEVER KNEW...

HUH?

I-I DO?

HITOMI-CHAN...

YOU AVOID PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH OTHER GIRLS, DON'T YOU?

AND YOU'RE ALWAYS TURNING DOWN INVITATIONS TO HANG OUT.

AND YOU HANG OUT WITH HER INSTEAD US AFTER THE GAMES...

BUT WHEN NANA-CHAN SHOWS UP, YOU'RE ALL OVER HER.

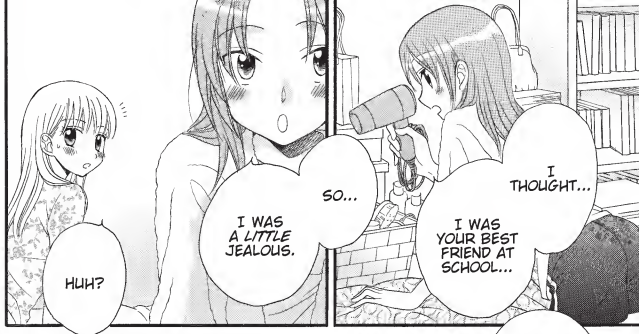
YOU MIGHT GIVE SOMEONE A HIGH-FIVE, BUT THAT'S IT.

EVEN AFTER WE WIN A GAME, YOU NEVER HUG ANY OF US.

You do!

I bet it was Kogami.

No wonder someone complained on the forum!



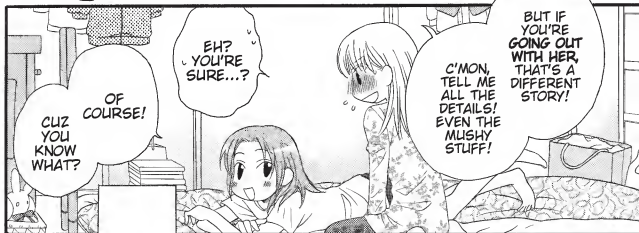
HUH?

SO...

I WAS
A LITTLE
JEALOUS.

I
THOUGHT...

I WAS
YOUR BEST
FRIEND AT
SCHOOL...



OF
COURSE!
CUZ
YOU
KNOW
WHAT?

EH?
YOU'RE
SURE...?

BUT IF
YOU'RE
GOING OUT
WITH HER,
THAT'S A
DIFFERENT
STORY!

C'MON,
TELL ME
ALL THE
DETAILS!
EVEN THE
MUSHY
STUFF!

I...

I
NEVER
IMAG-
INED...

IF SHE'S
YOUR LOVER,
THAT MEANS
I'M YOUR
BEST
FRIEND!

RIGHT?

YEAH...

I
GUESS
SO.





BUT I
FEEL
BETTER
NOW THAT
I DID.

I
DIDN'T
PLAN ON
TELLING
HER...

.....

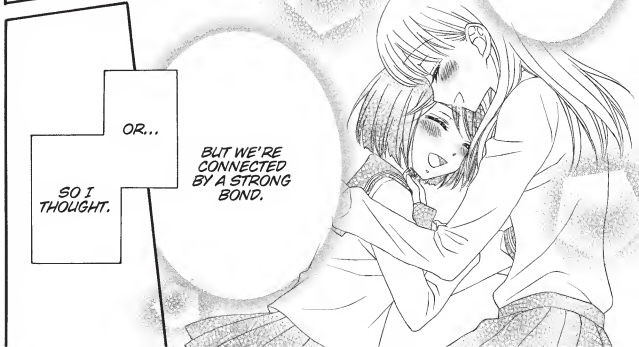
YEAH.

DON'T
WORRY!
CHIE-CHAN
WON'T TELL
ANYONE.



IT'S NICE
TO HAVE
A FRIEND
CHEERING
YOU ON.

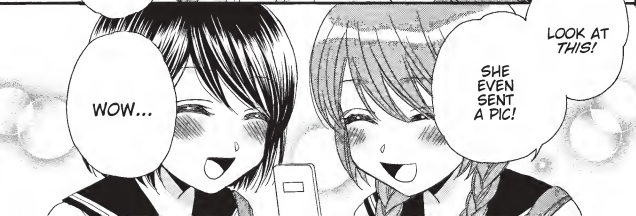
WE CAN'T
DISCUSS
IT WITH
ANYONE...

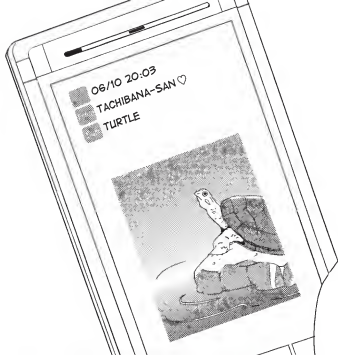


OR...

SO I
THOUGHT.

BUT WE'RE
CONNECTED
BY A STRONG
BOND.





BA-THUMP

MAYBE
ABE-
CHAN
WILL
UNDER-
STAND.

BUT SHE IS
DEFINITELY
ATTRACTED TO
TACHIBANA-
SAN.

I DON'T
KNOW IF
SHE'S
IN LOVE
LIKE
ME...

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP



YEAH, I
DON'T KNOW
WHY SHE
SENT IT.

A
TURTLE?



Gotta
save
her
text!
♡

click





R-
REALLY?

YOU
THINK I
SHOULD
REPLY WITH
A TURTLE
PIC?

Ah!

I...

I KNOW
WHERE
TO FIND
LOTS OF
TURTLES.



I
STILL
DON'T
HAVE
THE
GUTS...

TO
TELL
MY
FRIEND
YET.

I'll
take a
kitty
pic as
backup!

Sigh...

Snap

HEY,
NANA-
CHIN...

DO YOU
PLAN ON
ATTENDING
THE SCHOOL'S
COLLEGE?

BUT...



I'M
GOING TO
MAJOR IN
LITERATURE,
JUST LIKE
TACHIBANA-
SAN!

Ehehe!

BIG
SURPRISE.

FOR
NOW, I'M
HAPPY
WITH
THE WAY
THINGS
ARE.

WHAT DO
YOU WANT TO
MAJOR IN?
WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO
TALK TO THE
GUIDANCE
COUNSELOR
SOON.

YEAH, I
GUESS
SO.

I THINK
I STILL
HAVE
SOME TIME
BEFORE...

I TELL MY
FRIENDS
OR WORRY
ABOUT
HOW
THEY'LL
REACT.



Sakurakai Girls' High School



HITOMI
SAID
SHE WAS
GOING TO
TAKE OUR
UNIVERSITY
ENTRANCE
EXAM.

OH
YEAH...

I'LL BE IN
A DIFFERENT
GRADE, BUT
AT LEAST WE'LL
BE IN THE SAME
DEPARTMENT!

♪

WE'LL
BE IN
THE SAME
SCHOOL
AGAIN.

JUST LIKE
WE BOTH
DREAMED.

IF SHE
PASSES,
WE CAN BE
SCHOOL-
MATES
AGAIN...

Awww...

ALL
RIGHT!
LET'S STUDY
HARD FOR
FINALS, ABE-
CHAN!

REALLY?
BUT IT'S
OVER A
MONTH
AWAY...

GOOD
LUCK!

Oh!

TO GET IN,
I NEED
TO KEEP
MY GRADES
UP AND GET
SELECTED
BEFORE
GRADUATION!!







I'M
NOT...
COMING
BACK.

EH?

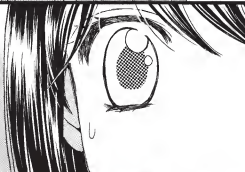
WHAT
DOES
SHE
MEAN?



I
THOUGHT
TRAINING
CAMP
WASN'T
UNTIL THE
SUMMER.

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?
WHEN
ARE YOU
COMING
BACK?

LEAVING
HOME?



I'M...

RUNNING
AWAY.

WHAT?!





くちびるためいきさくらいろ

K u c h i b i r u T a m e i k i S a k u r a i r o

MORNING,
NANA!

GOOD
MORNING!

UP TO A
CERTAIN
POINT...

I'M
OFF TO
SCHOOL!

IT'S A
TYPICAL
MORNING.

I'M ALL
PACKED AND
READY TO GO.
THERE'S NO
TURNING
BACK!

I DON'T
WANT TO
DRAG YOU
INTO MY
MESS.

HEY...

YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
DO THIS,
YOU
KNOW?

TODAY...

WE
EACH
BROUGHT
ONE
EXTRA
BAG.

WE'RE
IN THIS
TOGETHER!

HOW CAN
YOU EVEN
ASK ME
THAT?

JEEZ!

OKAY...

Close Dammed Open

GA-GIRL

NOPE.

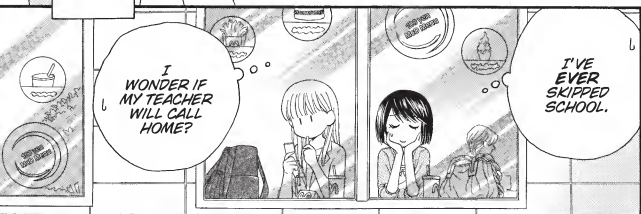
ANYTHING
ELSE YOU
WANT TO
STASH
IN THE
LOCKER?

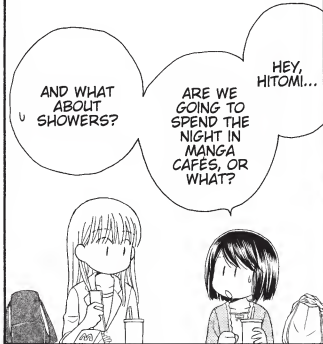
CHAPTER 11 TEENAGE RUNAWAYS

FROM
HERE
ON...

EVERY-
THING'S
DIFFERENT.

LET'S
GO!





WHAAAT
?!

Kinugawa Onsen

Shinbuchi Nikko-shi

Kinugawa-koen

HUH?

EXPRESS
TRAIN?

Umm
WE'LL
TAKE THE
EXPRESS
TRAIN.

HERE ARE
THE KEYS
TO YOUR
ROOM.

IF YOU
NEED
ANYTHING,
PLEASE
LET US
KNOW.

HELLO, MISS
FUJIMORI.
WELCOME
TO NEW
YAMAYA.

UH...

CHECK
OUT THE
VIEW,
NANA!

WOW!
WE'RE
RIGHT
ABOVE
THE
RIVER!

SLIDE

HITOMI,
THIS ISN'T
RUNNING
FROM
HOME...
IT'S A
VACATION.

THE LARGE
BATH IS
OPEN UNTIL
MIDNIGHT, BUT
THE OUTDOOR
BATH IS OPEN
TWENTY-FOUR
HOURS.

YEAH, IT'S
SUMMER
BREAK
AT OUR
COLLEGE.

SO YOU AND
YOUR FRIEND
DECIDED TO
TAKE A TRIP
TOGETHER?

LIE

Ha ha!

SHE
BELIEVED ME
WHEN I SAID WE
WERE COLLEGE
STUDENTS! WELL,
WE'LL BE IN
COLLEGE NEXT
YEAR, SO CLOSE
ENOUGH!

I'VE GOT IT
COVERED.

DON'T
WORRY!
I SAVED
SOME
MONEY
FROM MY
PART-TIME
JOB.

WHAT?

NO, I
COULDN'T
POSS-
IBLY--!

IT MIGHT
BE CHEAP,
BUT IT'S STILL
MORE THAN I
CAN AFFORD.

I KNOW,
BUT IT'S
ONLY 6000
YEN PER NIGHT
WITH DINNER
INCLUDED!
ISN'T THAT A
GOOD DEAL?

HITOMI...
RUNAWAYS
DON'T SKIP
SCHOOL
JUST TO GO
TO A HOT
SPRINGS!

Couldn't
help it...

IT'S ALL
RIGHT. I WAS
SAVING THIS
MONEY FOR
THE DAY WE
WOULD LIVE
TOGETHER. IT
JUST CAME
A LITTLE
SOONER THAN
EXPECTED.

EH?

AND
MAKE
PLANS
FOR THE
LONG-
TERM.

THEN WE
SHOULD
SAVE OUR
MONEY
NOW...

*I don't mind
camping.*

BUT I
ONLY HAVE
ENOUGH FOR
TONIGHT...

WE MIGHT
HAVE TO
CAMP OUT
TOMORROW.
SORRY...

BUT...
I REALLY
DON'T MIND
SPENDING
IT NOW.

THAT'S
WHY I
LEFT
HOME...

BECAUSE...

SQUEEZE

NO
WAY!

I'LL
NEVER
LET
YOU GO,
NANA!

THERE'S
A CHANCE
WE WON'T
BE TO-
GETHER
IN THE
FUTURE.

OH
RIGHT...

OUR
TRIP WAS
NOTHING
LIKE I
EXPECTED...

HON...
**HONEY-
MOON?!**

snuggle
snuggle

LIKE
WE'RE
ON OUR
HONEY-
MOON!

I
WANTED
TO SPEND A
DAY WITH
YOU...

WE'RE
RUN-
AWAYS
...

RIGHT
?

WHAT DO
YOU WANT
TO DO FIRST:
MONKEY
MOUNTAIN
PARK OR
THE CABLE
CAR?

HEY,
WANNA
GO
SIGHT-
SEEING?

IT
HARDLY
FEELS...

LIKE
WE'VE
RUN
AWAY
FROM
HOME.

**VACATION
MODE**

Ooh
Ooh!

DRHHHZZ

EH?
YOU'RE
HITOMI-
CHAN'S
MOTHER?

G-GOOD
EVENING!

UMMM...

SORRY
TO CALL
YOU SO
LATE AT
NIGHT.

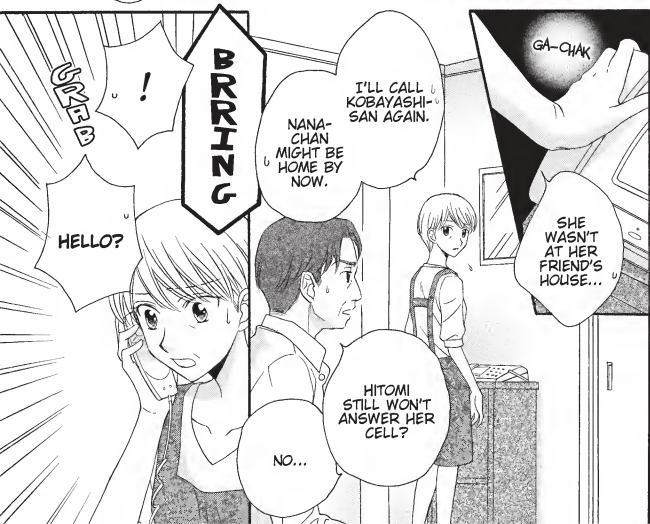
THANK YOU
FOR TAKING
CARE OF MY
DAUGHTER
HITOMI THE
OTHER DAY.

CHIE,
CAN YOU
GET THE
PHONE?

SAKAI-
SAN?
UMMM...

GOT
IT!

HELLO,
SAKAI
RESI-
DENCE.



WHAT
WERE THOSE
TWO
THINKING?

SHE
LEFT
A NOTE
ON THE
KITCHEN
TABLE...

CAN
YOU
BELIEVE
IT?

I'm going away with Hitomi for a while.
I'm sorry for skipping school.
I will call you later. Please don't worry.
Please text me if there is an emergency.

Nana

I
can't
believe
her!

She never came
home from school.

OH, KO-
BAYASHI-
SAN...

HUH?
NANA-
CHAN DID
WHAT?!

HITOMI'S
COMING
WITH US
OVERSEAS.

SHE CAN
GO TO
COLLEGE
THERE.

AND
DRAGGED
NANA-
CHAN
ALONG
WITH HER.

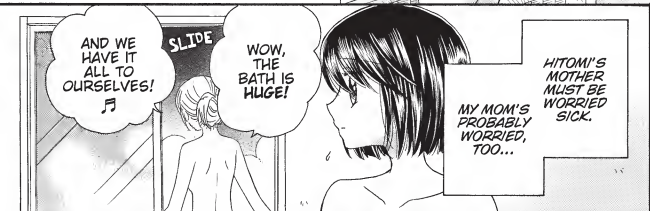
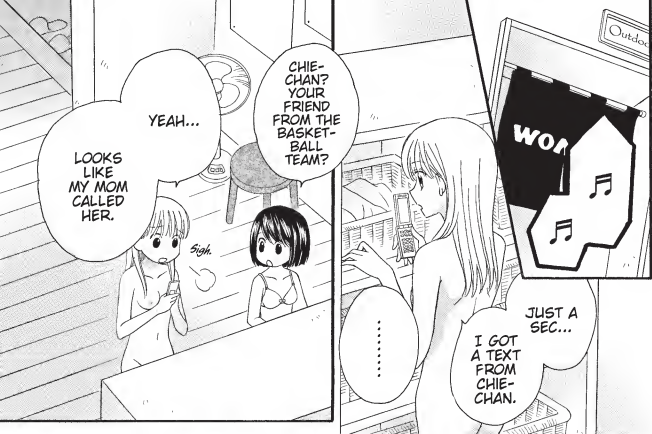
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HITOMI
RAN
AWAY...

Sigh.

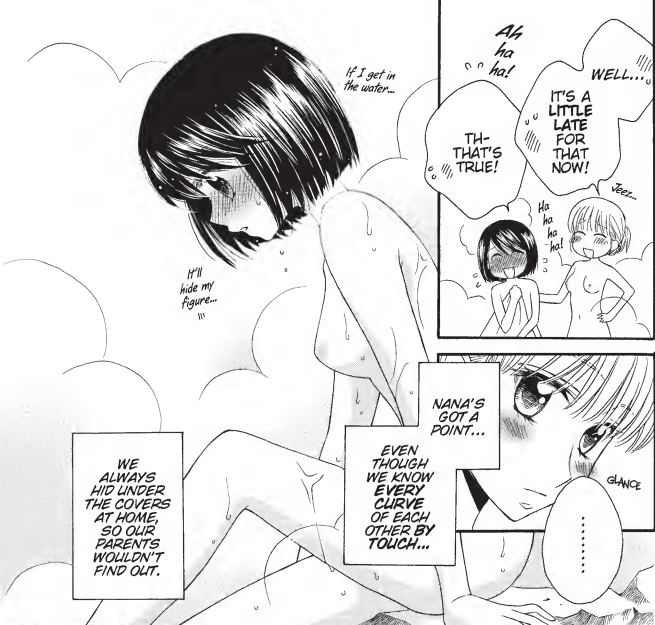
SHE DOES
NEED TO
STUDY FOR
HER COLLEGE
ENTRANCE
EXAMS.

MAYBE
HITOMI
COULD STAY
IN JAPAN
WHILE
WE GO
ABROAD.

IT MIGHT
BE A LONG-
TERM STAY. WE
CAN'T LEAVE
HER HERE
ALONE THAT
LONG!









I'M
HOPING I
CAN STAY
IN JAPAN
AND LIVE AT
A RELATIVE'S
HOUSE.

MOST OF
THEM LIVE
IN THE
TOHOKU
REGION,
THOUGH.

BUT AT
LEAST IT'S
IN JAPAN,
SO I CAN
STILL SEE
YOU.

AFTER
ALL, I LEFT
HOME...

LEVER-
AGE?

SO I'D
HAVE SOME
LEVERAGE
WITH THEM.

AND I'LL
KEEP SAVING
MY MONEY,
SO...

I
THOUGHT
HITOMI WAS
BEING
RASH WHEN
SHE RAN
AWAY FROM
HOME...

I
PROMISE
WE'LL GO TO
THE SAME
COLLEGE,
NANA.

SHE
HAD
A PLAN
THIS
WHOLE
TIME.

BUT...

THIS
TIME WE
WILL...

GO TO
THE SAME
SCHOOL..

Ha
_ha!

WOW,
YOUR FOLKS
ARE PRETTY
LAIDBACK.

GR-THUNK

THEY
WEREN'T
TOO WORRIED.
THEY ASKED
ME TO COME
BACK SOON.

GR-THUNK

GA-THUNK

THEY'RE
NOT LISTEN-
ING TO ME
AT ALL!

HOW ABOUT YOU?

**NEXT
DAY.**

GR-THUNK

OH!
CHIE
JUST
TEXTED
ME!

THEY
TOLD MY
SCHOOL I
WAS OUT
SICK.

CLAD

THIS
SUCKS!

I don't
get my
parents...

TAE
TAD

CR-THUNK

I SAW A
CONVENIENCE
STORE
ON THE
WAY HERE.

SURE.

SHOULD
WE GO
GET SOME
FOOD?

SINCE
WE'RE
STAYING OUT
TONIGHT...

YEAH.
WE CAN
SLEEP IN
A MANGA
CAFÉ
THERE.

WE
SHOULD
PROBABLY
GO BACK
TO TOKYO
TOMOR-
ROW.

THE
ONLY
WAY TO
NEGOTIATE
WITH
THEM...

WE
WERE
STILL
CHIL-
DREN...

WAS
TO DO
SOME-
THING
DRASTIC
LIKE
THIS.

AND OUR
PARENTS
HAD ALL
THE
POWER.



Rooms Available
Managed by

.....



BUT I
WONDER...

HOW
LONG
CAN WE
HOLD
OUT?



WH-
WHAT?!

WE'LL
GET AN
APARTMENT
AND LIVE
HERE!

WE
SHOULD
ELOPE!



HUH?

I
WONDER
HOW MUCH
RENT IS
HERE?

I BET IT'S
CHEAP.



I'D
PROBABLY
WORK AT A
CONVENIENCE
STORE.

YOU LOOK
GOOD IN A
KIMONO, SO I
BET ONE OF THE
TRADITIONAL
INNS WOULD
HIRE YOU...

MAYBE
EVEN AT
ONE OF THE
NEARBY
HOTELS.

I'M
SURE WE
COULD GET
JOBS.



HUH...?

WHEN I
COME HOME
FROM WORK,
YOU'LL GREET
ME AT THE
DOOR WITH A
CUTE APRON
ON...

AND ASK
IF I WANT
TO TAKE
BATH, OR EAT
DINNER, OR,
WELL, YOU
KNOW.

WHAT I
DREAMED
OF...

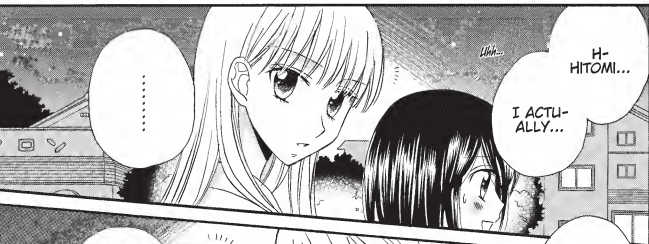
WAIT...

THAT
ISN'T...

I'LL
TAKE
CARE
OF YOU,
NANA!

YOU WON'T
HAVE TO! YOU
CAN STAY AT
HOME AND COOK
US DELICIOUS
MEALS!

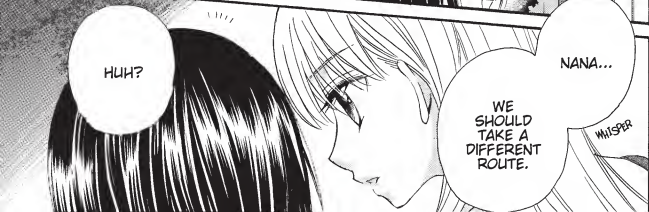
♪



H-
HITOMI...

I ACTU-
ALLY...

Uhh...



HUH?

NANA...

WE
SHOULD
TAKE A
DIFFERENT
ROUTE.

WHISPER



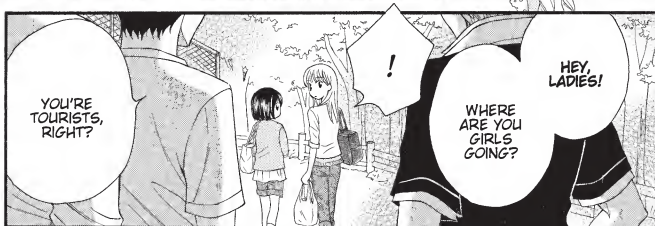
THEY'RE
RIGHT
BEHIND
US.

SHE'S
RIGHT...

WHAT?

THE
GUYS
BEHIND
US...

HAVE
BEEN
FOLLOWING
US SINCE
THE STORE.

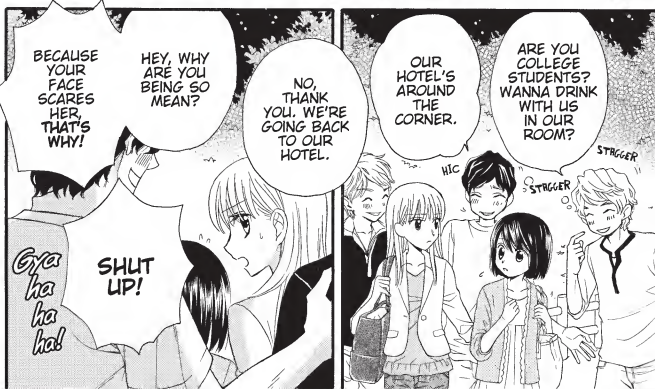


YOU'RE
TOURISTS,
RIGHT?

!

HEY,
LADIES!

WHERE
ARE YOU
GIRLS
GOING?



BECAUSE
YOUR
FACE
SCARES
HER,
THAT'S
WHY!

HEY, WHY
ARE YOU
BEING SO
MEAN?

NO,
THANK
YOU. WE'RE
GOING BACK
TO OUR
HOTEL.

OUR
HOTEL'S
AROUND
THE
CORNER.

ARE YOU
COLLEGE
STUDENTS?
WANNA DRINK
WITH US
IN OUR
ROOM?

Gya
ha
ha
ha!

SHUT
UP!

HIC

STAGGER

STAGGER

IT WAS
SAFER
HERE THAN
SHIBUYA,
BUT...

I
THOUGHT...

I DON'T
CARE WHAT
HAPPENS TO
ME, AS LONG
AS NANA
IS SAFE.

AH!

HITOMI...

GAO

IT'S
MY
FAULT...

HUFF

FOR
DRAG-
GING
NANA
INTO
THIS
MESS.

OVER
HERE!

DON'T
WORRY, I'LL
BE RIGHT
BACK. I
PROMISE.

NANA,
STAY
RIGHT
HERE.

WHAT
...?

CHAPTER 11 END



CHAPTER 12 OUR STORY

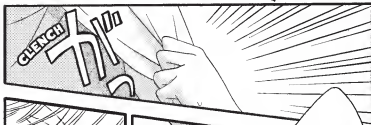


NANA,
STAY
HERE.



AND
LOSE
THEM
SOME-
WHERE.

I'LL
LURE
THEM
AWAY
FROM
NANA...



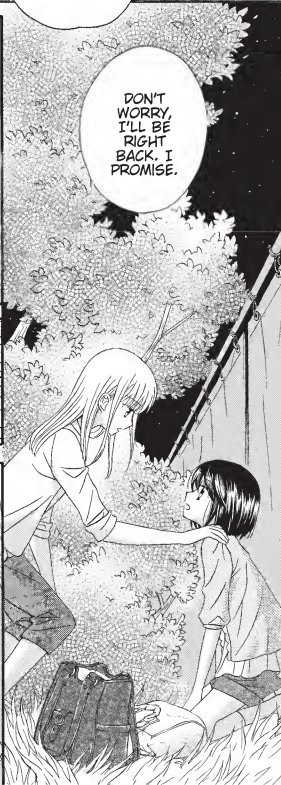
GLENCH



NANA...

WHAT
ARE YOU
TRYING
TO DO?

HITOMI?



DON'T
WORRY,
I'LL BE
RIGHT
BACK. I
PROMISE.



I...



I
DON'T
WANT
THAT,
HITOMI.

EH?

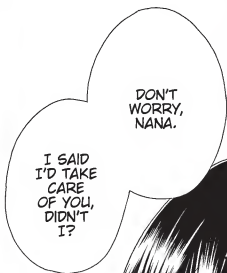


I CAN'T
JUST HIDE
HERE WHILE
YOU PUT
YOURSELF
IN DANGER.

THAT...

THAT
ISN'T
WHY...

I
CAME
WITH
YOU.



DON'T
WORRY,
NANA.

I SAID
I'D TAKE
CARE
OF YOU,
DIDN'T
I?

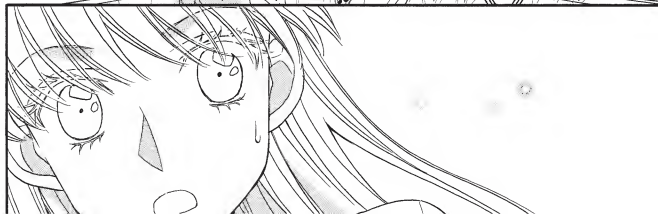


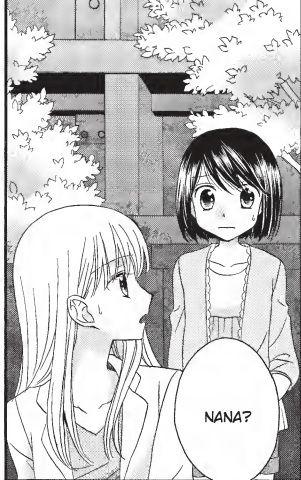
I'LL
PROTECT
YOU WITH
MY LIFE.



**NO WAY,
HITOMI!!**

NOOOO!!





NANA?



PHEW!

THEY'RE
GONE!

SIGH...

B-
BUT...
WE STILL
NEED TO
TALK.



THAT'S NOT
THE POINT!
YOU'RE NOT
LISTENING!

I JUST
WANT YOU
TO BE SAFE,
NANA! I
LOVE YOU
SO MUCH.

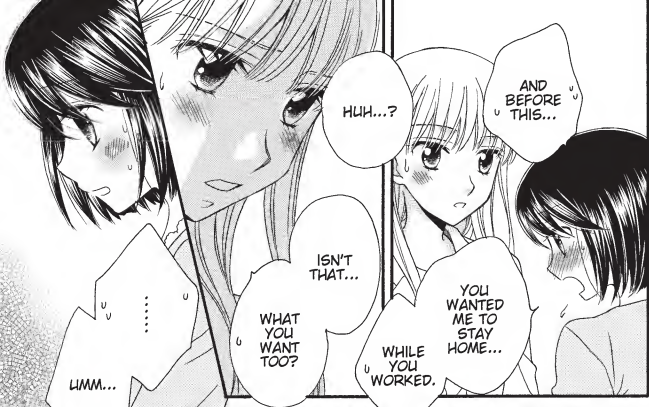
I
KNOW,
BUT...



I...

I
DON'T
NEED
YOU...

TO
PROTECT
ME ALL
THE
TIME.





I
DON'T
WANT
THAT.

I WANT
TO BE
EQUALS.

WHY
ARE YOU
ACTING LIKE
YOU HAVE
TO BE "THE
MAN" IN THIS
RELATION-
SHIP?

WHY
DO YOU
HAVE TO
TAKE ON ALL
THE RISKS
AND PUT
YOURSELF IN
DANGER?



I
GET
IT...

YOU FEEL
SMOTHERED.

I
KNOW
YOU'RE
A HARD
WORKER,
HITOMI...

BUT...
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
SHOULDER
IT ALL
YOURSELF.

I
FEEL
SO
HAPPY...

EVERY
TIME
SHE
SAYS
SHE'LL
"PROTECT"
ME...

I'M NOT
SURE IF
I CAN
EXPLAIN
IT, BUT--

I'LL
BE
MORE
CARE-
FUL.

EH?

NO!
THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEANT....!

YET FRU-
STRATED
AT THE
SAME
TIME.

.....

BECAUSE
OF THE
STRONG
BOND...

WE
SHARE
...

IT
WOULD
BE DIF-
FERENT.

IF WE
WERE
BOYFRIEND
AND GIRL-
FRIEND...

I
MEAN...

I
THOUGHT
...

WE
UNDER-
STOOD
EACH
OTHER...

BUT
WE'RE
BOTH
GIRLS...

WHY IS
IT SO
HARD...

SO...!

TO
EXPLAIN
THAT
I...

THAT'S...

EXACTLY
WHY...

HUH?

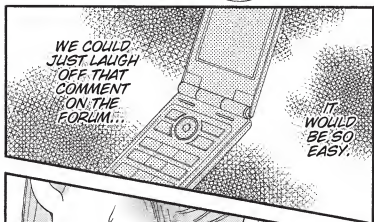
.....



IF WE WERE
A NORMAL
COUPLE...

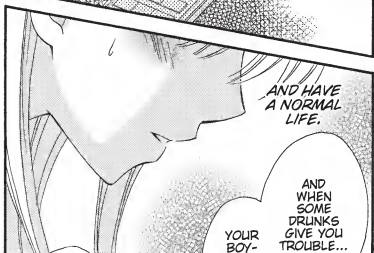
YOU'D
PROBABLY
HAVE A
BOYFRIEND
BY NOW.

IF I
HADN'T
FALLEN FOR
YOU...



WE COULD
JUST LAUGH
OFF THAT
COMMENT
ON THE
FORUM...

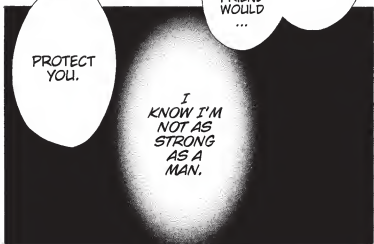
IT
WOULD
BE SO
EASY.



AND HAVE
A NORMAL
LIFE.

YOUR
BOY-
FRIEND
WOULD

AND
WHEN
SOME
DRUNKS
GIVE YOU
TROUBLE...



PROTECT
YOU.

I
KNOW I'M
NOT AS
STRONG
AS A
MAN.



IF IT
WEREN'T
FOR ME...

YOU'D
HAVE A
NORMAL
LIFE.



SO
THAT'S
WHY...

BUT I JUST
WANT TO BE
WITH NANA. I
DON'T WANT
TO LOSE HER.

I WANT TO
BE STRONG
FOR HER.



YOU...

AND
TRIED TO
PROTECT
ME?

ACTED
LIKE A
GUY...

JEEZ...

HITOMI...

I'M SO
SORRY,
HITOMI...

YOU
KNOW
WHAT?

I FEEL
THE SAME.

I DIDN'T
KNOW HITOMI
FELT THAT
WAY...



HITOMI...

AND...

AS
YOU
LOVE
ME.

I LOVE
YOU JUST
AS MUCH...

I
WANT TO
PROTECT
YOU TOO,
HITOMI.

I WANT TO BE
SO STRONG THAT
YOU NEVER NEED
ANYONE ELSE.

I WANT
TO LOVE YOU
MORE...

EVEN
THOUGH
WE'RE
ALWAYS
TOGETHER
...

I
THINK...

AND FEEL
YOUR LOVE.

WE NEED
TO TALK
ABOUT
OUR
FEELINGS
MORE
OFTEN.



Hmm.

THEY
PROBABLY
STARTED IT
BEFORE THE
ECONOMY
TOOK A NOSE
DIVE. HEY, BE
CAREFUL,
NANA...

IT LOOKS
LIKE THEY
STOPPED
CONSTRUCTION
MIDWAY.

NANA...

BY THE
WAY...

WHAT
ARE THEY
BUILDING
HERE?

HUH? I
DUNNO...
SOME SORT
OF LUXURY
CONDO,
MAYBE?

GLANCE

I-IT
MIGHT BE
HAUNTED.

WOW!
HITOMI,
LOOK!

NO
IDEA.

I
WONDER
WHAT IT'S
LIKE?

I'VE
NEVER
LIVED IN
A CONDO
BEFORE.

THE
STARS ARE
AMAZING!

YOU
SAID
THIS
WAS...

OUR
HONEY-
MOON!

HITOMI,
LET'S LIVE
IN A CONDO
LIKE THIS!

♪

COME
TO
THINK
OF IT...

NANA
WAS
ALWAYS
THE
STRONGER
ONE
DURING
TOUGH
TIMES.

PROMISE?

♪

Wow!

Look!

♪

IT WAS
THAT
INNER
STRENGTH
THAT
DREW ME
TO HER...

SURE...

THAT
MADE ME
FALL IN
LOVE.

WELL, IT'S
ALMOST
OVER, BUT
LET'S MAKE
THE BEST
OF WHAT'S
LEFT!

Hehe!

HUH? THE
BEST OF
WHAT?

YOU
KNOW...

///
v
v

IT'S
PROBABLY BE-
CAUSE...

BUT IT'S
NOT LIKE
YOU RAN
AWAY
BECAUSE
OF THAT,
RIGHT?

SO
IT WAS
KAGAMI
AFTER
ALL.

I'm an
awful
person!

Waaaaaaah!

I POSTED
THAT COMMENT
ON THE BASKET-
BALL FORUM!

D
R
I
P

I PROMISE
I'LL NEVER TRICK
YOU INTO TELLING
ME YOUR SECRETS
AGAIN! IT WAS
JUST THAT
ONE TIME!

GRAB!
かば

WAAAAH!
I'M SORRY,
HITOMI!

WAAAAH! I'M
SO SORRY! I
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN THERE
FOR YOU, BUT
INSTEAD I WAS
MOPING OVER
TACHIBANA-SAN!

SAME
HERE...

THEY
WON'T EVEN
GIVE ME A
CHANCE TO
SAY I'M
COMING
HOME.

Come back
so I can
apologize in
person!

I'M
SUCH
A BAD
FRIEND!

I
shouldn't
have
forced
you to
open up
like
that!

Semprail
I'm so
sorry!

WHY
DOES
EVERYONE
THINK IT'S
THEIR
FAULT?

THROUGH
ALL THE
MIS-
UNDER-
STANDINGS
...

We're lucky,
aren't we?

Heh. !!!

PROBABLY.

BECAUSE
THEY LOVE !!!
US?

THROUGH
ALL THE
CLUMSILY
EXPRESSED
FEELINGS...

THROUGH
THE
FEAR OF
LONELINESS
AND THE
HOPE OF
FINALLY
BEING AC-
CEPTED...

THROUGH
ALL THAT...

WE'RE
ABLE...

HEY,
HITOMI...

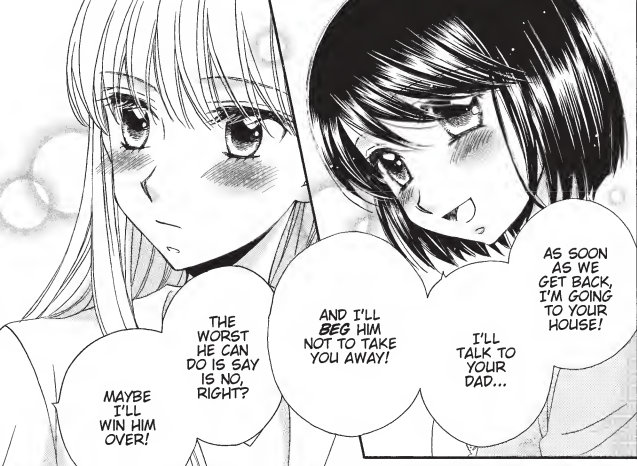
What?
Like rice
cakes?

They'd
be so
grossed!

Should we buy
souvenirs for
everyone?

TO BE
TOGETHER
LIKE THIS.

Kinugawa



MAYBE
I'LL
WIN HIM
OVER!

THE
WORST
HE CAN
DO IS SAY
IS NO,
RIGHT?

AND I'LL
BEG HIM
NOT TO TAKE
YOU AWAY!

I'LL
TALK TO
YOUR
DAD...

AS SOON
AS WE
GET BACK,
I'M GOING
TO YOUR
HOUSE!



WHAT'S
WRONG,
HITOMI?

U
M
M

U
OH,
NANA...



RUNAWAY
HONEY-
MOON
ENDED.

THIS WAS
HOW OUR
FIRST...

We can both
be strong,
you know...

JEEZ!
YOU'RE
STILL
WORRIED
ABOUT
THAT?

I'M
STARTING
TO LOSE
MY STATUS
AS THE
MANLY
ONE.

EVER SINCE
LAST NIGHT,
YOU'VE BEEN
LIKE A KNIGHT
IN SHINING
ARMOR. ♡

I'm no
match for
you...

Kinugawa Onsen



HITOMI...

YOU CAN
STAY IN
JAPAN.

EXHAUSTED

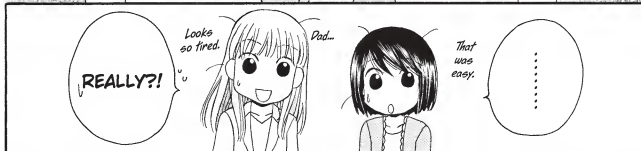
EVERY-
THING
WORKED
OUT.

AND...

ALL
RIGHT...
FINE.

Sigh.

Map of
Japan



Looks
so tired.

Dad...

That
was
easy.

REALLY?!

.....



NO
PROBLEM!
WE'LL TAKE
GOOD CARE
OF HITOMI-
CHAN.

♪

THANK
YOU FOR
MAKING
ALL THE ARRANGE-
MENTS,
KOBAYASHI-
SAN.

HUH?



Unbelievable!

I TOLD HIM IT JUST
DIDN'T MAKE SENSE,
ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE'S
ALMOST DONE WITH HIGH
SCHOOL. BUT ALL HE COULD
SAY WAS, "FAMILIES SHOULDN'T
SPLIT UP!" EVENTUALLY HE
SAW REASON. AND IT'S NOT
LIKE HE'S GOING ALONE.
I'M STILL GOING
WITH HIM.

He was
going to
search all of
Japan to find
her! As if he
has the energy
for that!

I'M SORRY
FOR NANA-
CHAN GETTING
DRAGGED INTO
THIS MESS.

He
wasn't
worried
at all.

IT'S ALL
RIGHT.
THEY'RE
HOME
SAFE AND
SOUND NOW,
AND THAT'S
ALL THAT
MATTERS.

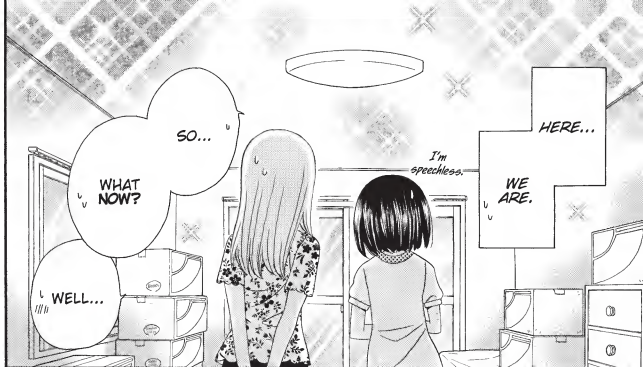
It's nice that he cares
so much. My husband,
on the other hand...

He still acts
like he's in the
college mountain
climbing club.

I'm
gonna
sleep.

No...
waaay.





SO...

WHAT NOW?

WELL...

I'm speechless.

HERE...

WE ARE.

YOUR SAVINGS?

Did the move cost a lot?

YOU KNOW...

I FEEL LIKE I'VE USED UP ALL MY SAVINGS.

Hmm...

AND I MIGHT NOT GET IN EITHER, LEAVING US TO STUDY FOR ANOTHER YEAR LIKE A COUPLE OF DEADBEATS.

BUT IF YOU USED UP ALL YOUR HAPPINESS, THEN... YOU MIGHT FAIL THE ENTRANCE EXAM...

IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE NEWLY-WEDS!!

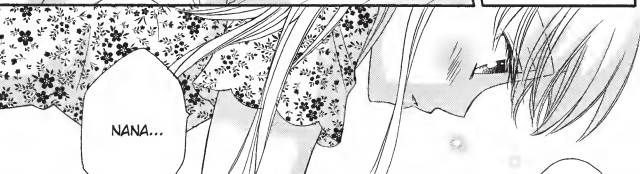
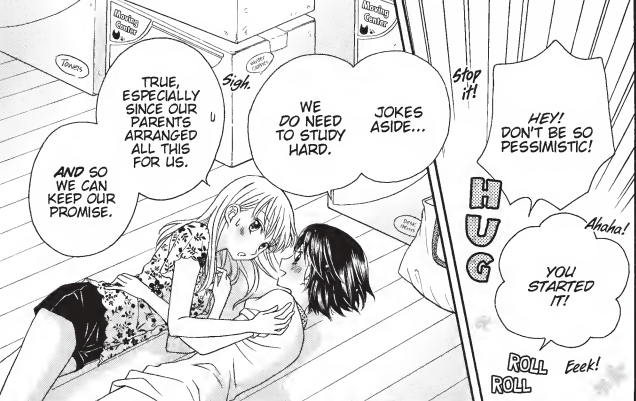
I LANDED A NEW STUDIO APARTMENT...

MY HAPPINESS SAVINGS!!

Whoo-hoo!

That worries me.

SHOCK



AND TOMORROW...

THERE'S NO
GUARANTEE
THEY WILL
EVER BE
FULFILLED...

ISN'T
THAT
GREAT?

AND THERE
ARE EVEN
PLACES
WHERE WE
CAN HAVE A
CEREMONY!

WE CAN
REGISTER
OUR
MARRIAGE...



EVEN IF THERE AREN'T ANY
LAWS OR REGULATIONS
TO BIND US TOGETHER...

I
PROMISE.



YOU'RE
FULL OF
PROMISES,
AREN'T
YOU?

I
HOPE...

OUR
STORY WILL
CONTINUE...

FOREVER.



CHAPTER 12 END





くちびるためいきさくらいろ

K u c h i b i r u T a m e i k i S a k u r a i r o





HEY, IS
THAT A NEW
DESSERT?

IT LOOKS
DELICIOUS!

CHATTER

CHATTER

AT AN
ALL-GIRLS
SCHOOL,
YOU ALWAYS
SEE GIRLS
PLAYING
AROUND...

SO
THERE'S
NO
REASON
WHY WE
SHOULD
STAND
OUT.

Yum!

BUT I'M
CAREFUL. I
MAKE SURE
I NEVER
TOUCH HER
MORE THAN
THREE TIMES
A DAY.

THANKS,
BUT IT'S
EASY TO
MAKE.

I JUST
STIRRED THE
INGREDIENTS
TOGETHER AND
LEFT IT IN THE
FRIDGE OVER-
NIGHT.



BACK OFF!
I ALWAYS
GET FIRST
DIBS!

Aaah!
♥

CHIEBO

CHIEBO

ME
TOO!

I WANT
SOME!

OH!
ERI'S
HOME-
MADE
DES-
SERT!

I MAKE
SURE THAT
I NEVER
GET TOO
CLOSE...

IT'S
EASY
TO
MAKE.
I'LL
TEACH
YOU...

YOU
COULD
EVEN
MAKE IT
FOR A
BOY YOU
LIKE.

YOU'RE
A WIZARD
IN THE
KITCHEN,
ERI-CHAN!

DELICIOUS
AS ALWAYS!
YOU'RE
AMAZING!

It's
sooo
good!

SHEESH!

Here.

Tsk
tsk

I TRY
TO GET
AS CLOSE
AS I CAN
WITHOUT
GIVING
PEOPLE
IDEAS.

CHOMP



MY LOVE IS IMPOSSIBLE.



SURE...

THAT'D BE GREAT!

BUT I'M NOT SAD AT ALL.



GOTTA BE CAREFUL.
CAN'T OVERDO IT...

OOPS, I TOUCHED HER
THREE TIMES ALREADY.

I DON'T HAVE TO BE HER SPECIAL SOMEONE AS LONG AS I CAN BE NEAR HER.



TEACH
ME SOON,
OKAY?

I JUST HAVE TO
KEEP MY FEELINGS
TO MYSELF.

CHAPTER 13
CHERRY ON HER LIPS

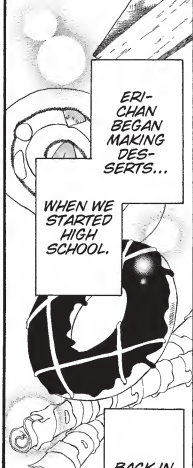


HER FINGERS
MOVED SO
GRACEFULLY.



HER
PERFORMANCE
REFLECTED HER
PERSONALITY...

STRONG
AND
PURE.



ERI-
CHAN
BEGAN
MAKING
DES-
SERTS...

WHEN WE
STARTED
HIGH
SCHOOL.

BACK IN
JUNIOR
HIGH...

SHE
HAD A
SILVER
FLUTE
THAT
WAS AS
ELEGANT
AS SHE
WAS.

I'LL
NEVER
FORGET
IT.

Sakurakai
Girls'
High
School
Musical
Band
Concert

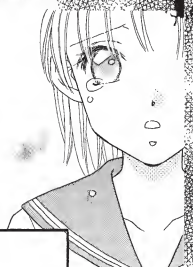


I JUST
KNEW
THAT
WE'D BE
FRIENDS.

WHEN WE
BECAME
CLASS-
MATES
IN HIGH
SCHOOL...

AND
THEN I
GOT MY
WISH.

I
WANTED
TO SPEND
EVERY
FREE
MOMENT
WITH
HER...



IT'S
BEEN
TWO
YEARS
SINCE
THEN.

AT LEAST
I'LL GET
TO SPEND
MORE TIME
WITH YOU,
CHIHARU-
CHAN.

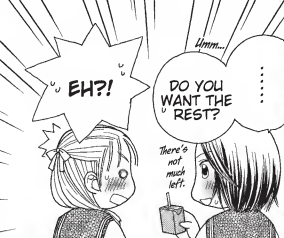


BUT I'LL
HAVE
TO QUIT
BAND...

SO
I'LL STILL
BE ABLE
TO DO
SCHOOL-
WORK.

LUCKILY,
MY
DOMINANT
ARM
WASN'T
INJURED...



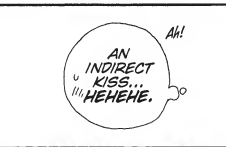
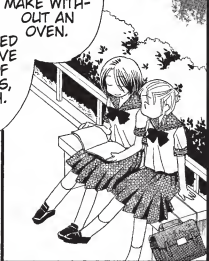


AFTER THAT, WE DID SPEND A LOT MORE TIME TOGETHER.



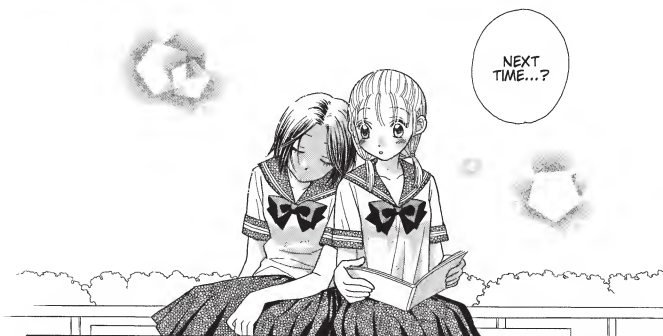
THE DEEP-FRIED ONES HAVE A LOT OF CALORIES, THOUGH.

THE MORE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER, THE CLOSER WE GOT.



SOON WE WERE BEST FRIENDS, BUT...



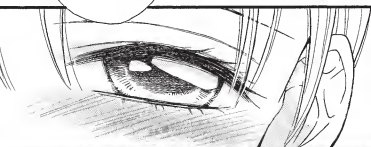




TOUCH

THIS
IS THE
FOURTH
TIME
TODAY...

BUT
SHE'S
ASLEEP...
I GUESS
IT'S ALL
RIGHT.



I SHOULDN'T WISH
FOR ANYTHING MORE.

WE
GRADUATE
NEXT
YEAR...

I
WISH...

I WISH
THE WORLD
WOULD END
RIGHT NOW.

I'LL
JUST
ENJOY
THIS...

WHILE IT
LASTS.



AAAAH!



OR, THAT
THIS COULD
LAST FOR-
EVER.



YOU
GUYS
ARE
REALLY
CLOSE.

IT'S
KINDA
WEIRD...

...
...
...
Baby bird
and mama?

CHOMP



UNTIL I
EAT YOUR
DESSERTS
AT LUNCH-
TIME!

ERI, MY
STOMACH
ISN'T
HAPPY...

Ha ha!

WANT
ANOTHER
ONE?



MMM-
MMM!
DELISH!

CHOMP

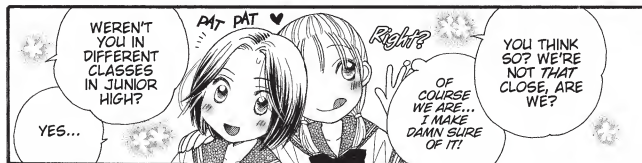
MUNCH

So
good...

MUNCH

MM!

Perfect!



WEREN'T
YOU IN
DIFFERENT
CLASSES
IN JUNIOR
HIGH?

YES...

PAT PAT ♥

Right?

OF
COURSE
WE ARE...
I MAKE
DAMN SURE
OF IT!

YOU THINK
SO? WE'RE
NOT THAT
CLOSE, ARE
WE?



IT'S LIKE
YOU'RE A
COUPLE OR
SOMETHING.

IT'S
JUST THE
WAY YOU
TWO ACT
SOMETIMES.

WISHING FOR
THINGS IS
DANGEROUS.

DON'T
EVER
GO
THERE,
EVEN IF
IT'S A
JOKE.
SHE
CAN'T
EVER
KNOW.

JEEZ!

DON'T
BE
SILLY!

STOP
IT.

I KNOW. I SHOULDN'T THINK ABOUT IT.

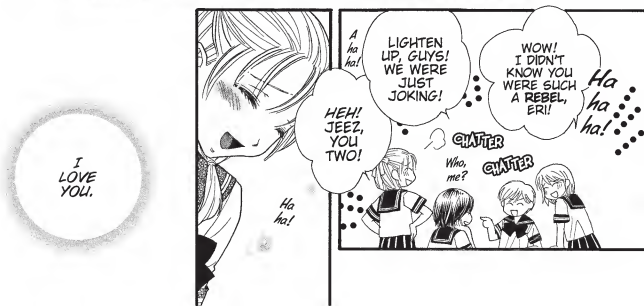
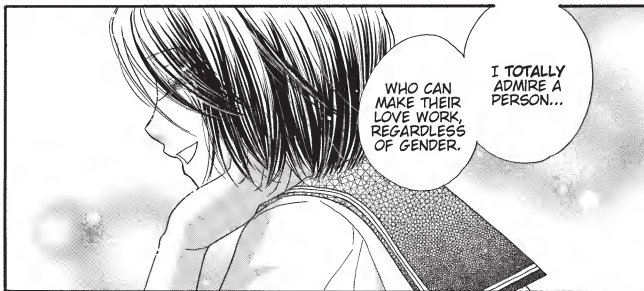
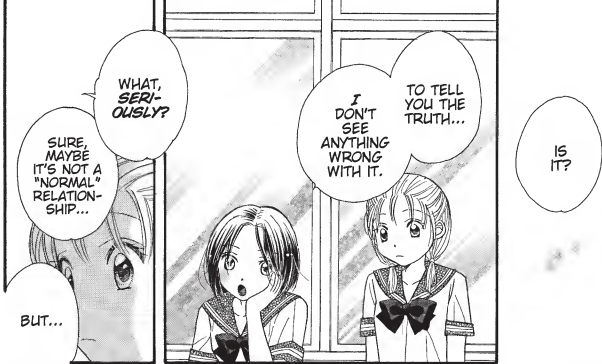
BUT...

THAT'S...

WHY...

SO
GROSS.

WHY IS IT
WRONG FOR ME
TO WANT
HER LIKE THAT?



I LOVE
YOU, ERI.

I LOVE
YOUR PURE
HEART.

I LOVE
YOU SO
MUCH.

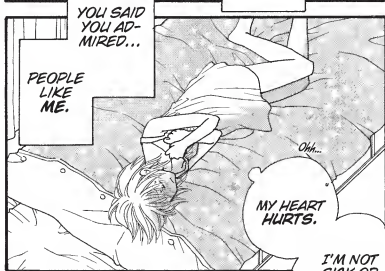


I NEED
TO WORK
HARDER.



IF I
SAID
THAT...

WOULD
IT
MAKE
YOU
HAPPY?



YOU SAID
YOU AD-
MIRERD...

PEOPLE
LIKE
ME.

Ohh...
MY HEART
HURTS.



HER
DRINK...

I'VE BEEN
FANTASIZ-
ING ABOUT
THINGS I
SHOULDN'T...

BUT I
STILL
WANT
MORE.

Sigh...
I'M NOT
SICK OR
ANYTHING...
BUT THIS
PAIN IS
REAL.

THEN YOU
ADD SOME
HONEY...

MIGHT
HURT
YOU.

OTHER-
WISE
MY
FEEL-
INGS...

DRIP

DRIP

...

...

SORRY,
WHAT DID
YOU SAY?

HUH?

CHIHARU?

ARE
YOU
LISTEN-
ING?

Ah!

...

I HOPE
WE'RE
STILL
FRIENDS...

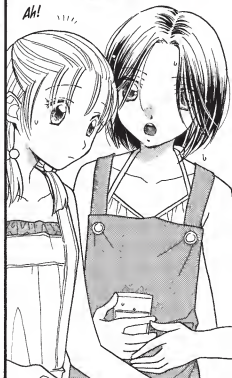
EVEN
AFTER WE
GRADUATE.

UHM, DO
I ADD THE
EGG YOLK
NOW?

STIR
STIR

OH
SHOOT, I
SHOULDN'T
SPACE OUT
LIKE THAT.

IT'S NOT
OFTEN THAT
ERI INVITES
ME TO HER
HOUSE.





THANKS
FOR
WAITING.

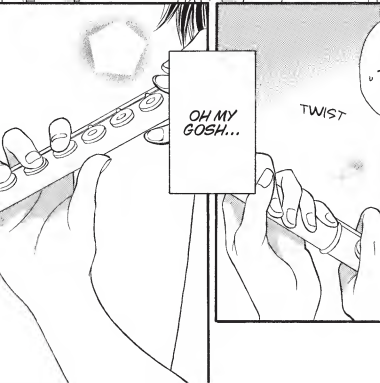
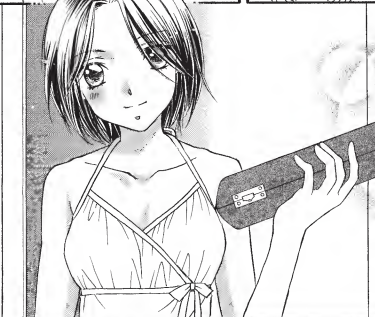


...?
...?

*Bath-
room
break?*

HM?

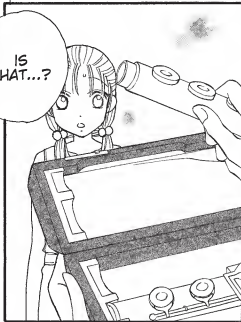
I'LL BE
RIGHT
BACK!

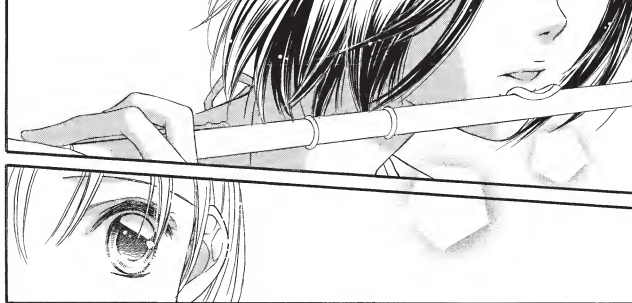


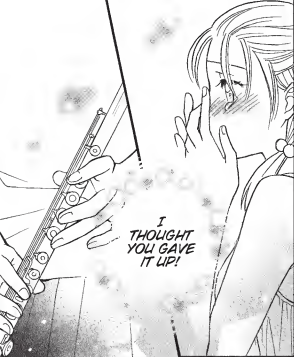
OH MY
GOSH...

TWIST

IS
THAT...?







I
THOUGHT
YOU GAVE
IT UP!



I CAN'T
PLAY AS
WELL AS
BEFORE...

SO CUT
ME SOME
SLACK,
OKAY?

THAT'S
NOT
TRUE...

YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
A BIT.

SO
STRONG,
YET
GENTLE
...

CHIHARU,
YOU'VE
SEEMED
KIND OF
SAD
LATELY.



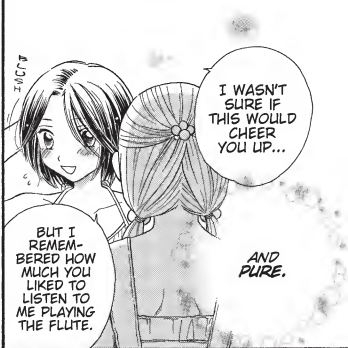
WHY?



THAT
TIME I
HURT MY
ARM...

YOU WERE
ALWAYS
WITH ME,
SMILING AND
LAUGHING...

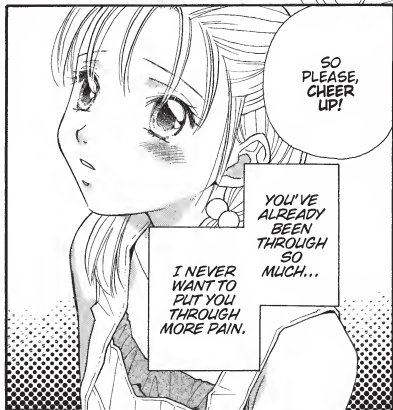
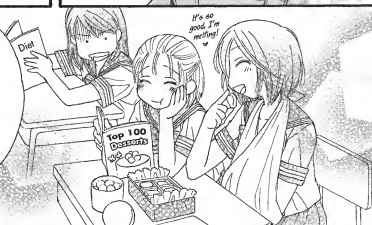
YOU
REALLY
CHEERED
ME UP.



I WASN'T
SURE IF
THIS WOULD
CHEER
YOU UP...

BUT I
REMEM-
BERED HOW
MUCH YOU
LIKED TO
LISTEN TO
ME PLAYING
THE FLUTE.

AND
PURE.



SO
PLEASE,
CHEER
UP!

I NEVER
WANT TO
PUT YOU
THROUGH
MORE PAIN.

YOU'VE
ALREADY
BEEN
THROUGH
SO MUCH...



IT'S
THANKS
TO YOU...

THAT I
DISCOVER-
ED MY
OTHER
TALENT!

I'm thinking
of becoming a
professional
pastry chef.

I SUCK,
DON'T I?
SORRY...

IT'S BEEN
A WHILE
SINCE I
PLAYED.

I DIDN'T
WANT TO
TROUBLE
YOU...

WITH MY
FEELINGS.

BUT
YOUR
MUSIC...

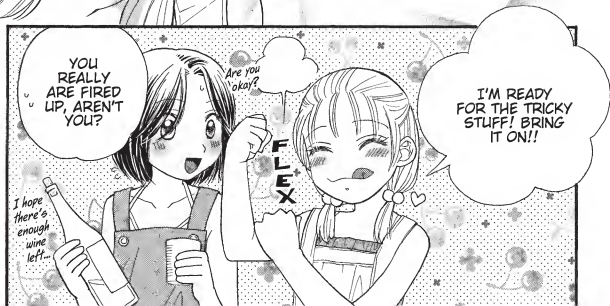
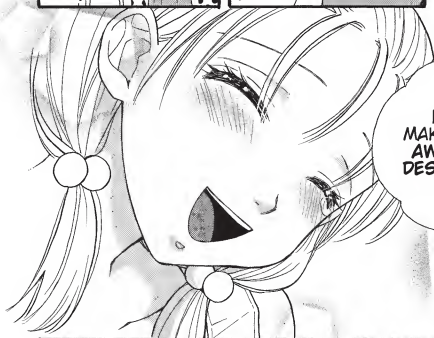
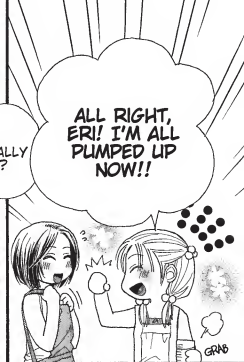
REMINDED
ME...

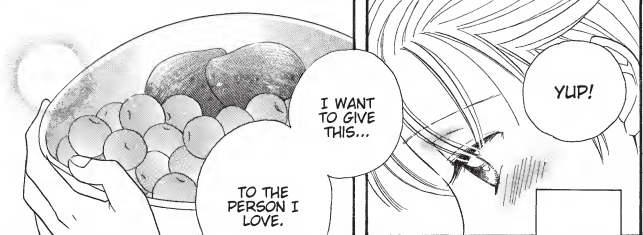
Actually...
I PRACTICED
A LITTLE BIT
YESTERDAY.

THAT
YOU'RE
ACTU-
ALLY...
A VERY
STRONG
PERSON.

I WASN'T
PROTECTING
ERI...

I WAS JUST
PROTECTING
MYSELF.





I WANT TO GIVE THIS...

YUP!

TO THE PERSON I LOVE.

YES...



Oh!

THE PERSON I LOVE IS...

So that's why you're so motivated.

VERY STRONG

...

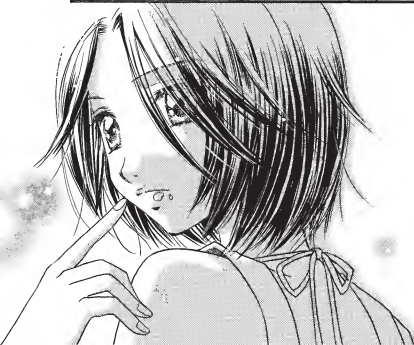
AND GENTLE

...



Heh.

AND PURE-HEARTED.



I'M NOT SCARED ANYMORE.



EVEN IF I'M
NOT YOUR
NUMBER ONE...



AND EVEN IF
I CAN'T BE WITH
YOU ANYMORE...



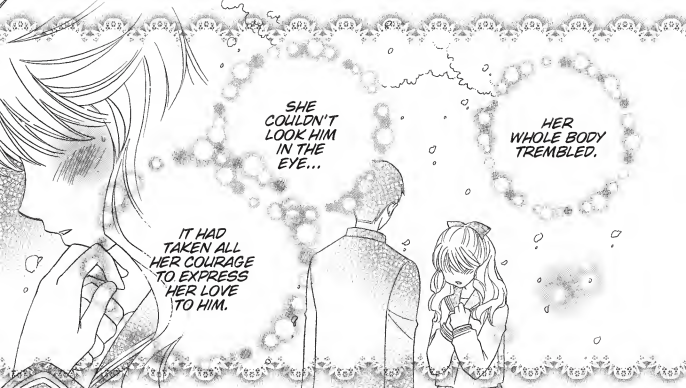
IT WON'T CHANGE THE FACT
THAT YOU'RE MY NUMBER ONE.

IF THIS
DESSERT
TURNS
OUT ALL
RIGHT...



I'VE GOT
SOMETHING
TO TELL
YOU!

CHAPTER 13 END

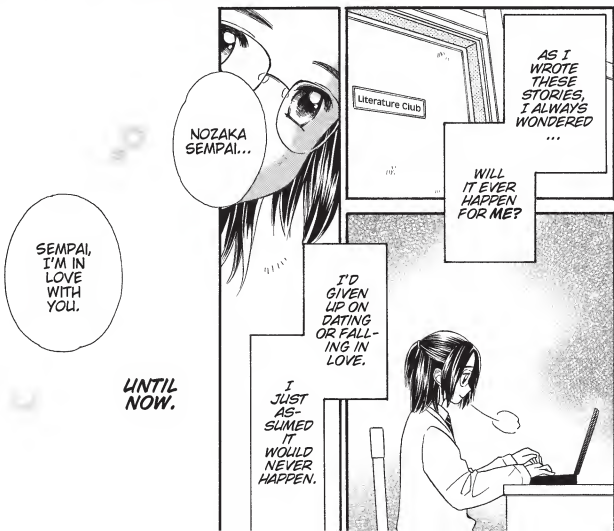


*SHE
COULDN'T
LOOK HIM
IN THE
EYE...*

*HER
WHOLE BODY
TREMBLED.*

*IT HAD
TAKEN ALL
HER COURAGE
TO EXPRESS
HER LOVE
TO HIM.*

I WONDER IF THAT'S HOW IT REALLY FEELS...



*NOZAKA
SEMPAI...*

*SEMPAI,
I'M IN
LOVE
WITH
YOU.*

*UNTIL
NOW.*

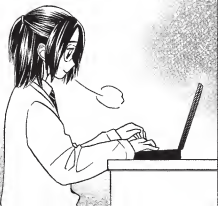
Literature Club

*AS I
WROTE
THESE
STORIES,
I ALWAYS
WONDERED
...*

*WILL
IT EVER
HAPPEN
FOR ME?*

*I'D
GIVEN
UP ON
DATING
OR FALL-
ING IN
LOVE.*

*I
JUST
AS-
SUMED
IT
WOULD
NEVER
HAPPEN.*

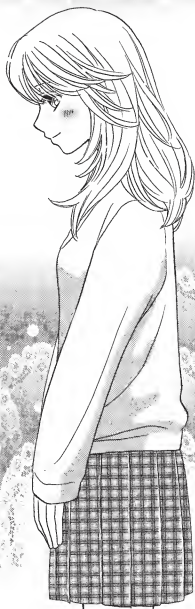
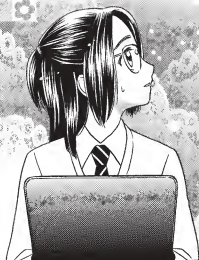


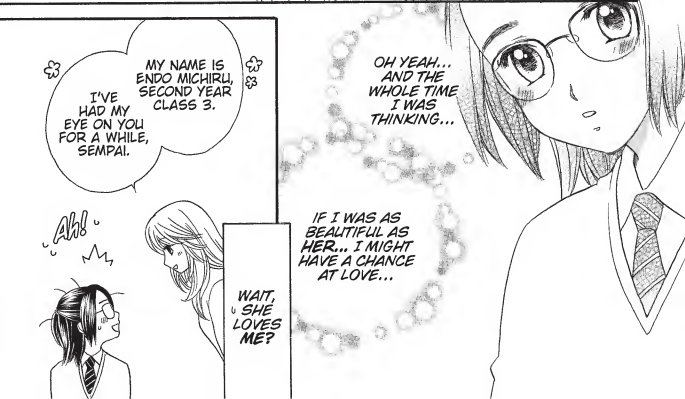
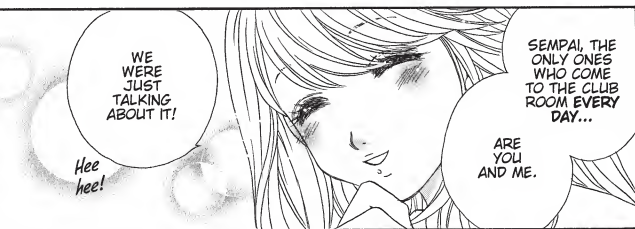
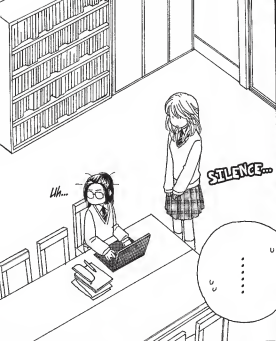
FINAL CHAPTER
MY TRUE FEELINGS

IT WAS
THE FIRST
TIME ANYONE
HAD EVER
CONFERSED
LOVE TO ME.

WILL YOU
GO OUT
WITH ME?

AND...
IT
WAS A
GIRL.







IT'S
UNUSUAL
FOR
SOMEONE
TO JOIN
THE CLUB
AT THIS
TIME OF
YEAR...

HOW
COULD I
FORGET
HER?

PRETTY
GIRLS LIKE
HER DON'T
USUALLY
JOIN THE
LITERATURE
CLUB.

SHE...



REALLY?!
I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
NOT SINCE I
ONLY JOINED
RECENTLY.



We only
have three
Second Year
students.

I-I
KNOW
WHO
YOU
ARE,
ENDO-
SAN.



SHE
LOOKS
LIKE...

THE
HEROINE
OF A
ROMANCE
STORY.

DON'T TELL
ME YOU'RE
SERIOUS...

C'mon!

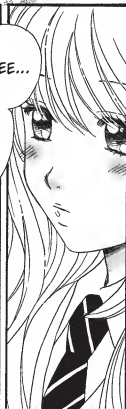
BESIDES
...

UH...
THE
THING
IS...

WHAT I
WANT
TO
KNOW...

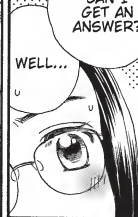
IS
WHY
ME?

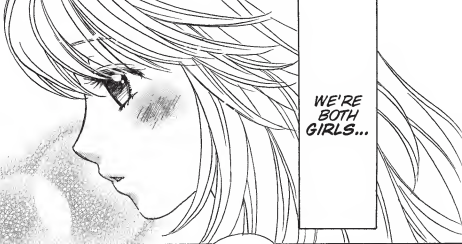
SEE...



SEMPAI...
CAN I
GET AN
ANSWER?

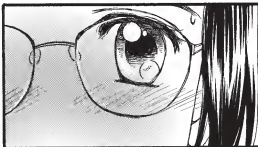
WELL...





I'VE NEVER
BEEN MORE
SERIOUS ABOUT
ANYTHING.

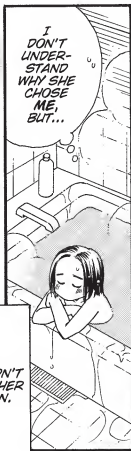
WE'RE
BOTH
GIRLS...



I'M
IN LOVE
WITH YOU,
SEMPAI.



O-O-KAY...
I GUESS
WE CAN
START
OUT AS
FRIENDS...



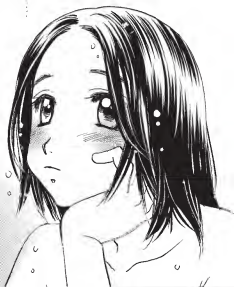
I
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
WHY SHE
CHOSE
ME,
BUT...

IT
MUST
HAVE
TAKEN
A LOT OF
GUTS...

TO ASK
ANOTHER
GIRL OUT.

THANK
YOU!

I
COULDN'T
TURN HER
DOWN.





IT'S CHILLY
TONIGHT, SO
PLEASE STAY
WARM AND
DON'T CATCH
COLD.



SWEET
DREAMS!



-MICHIRU

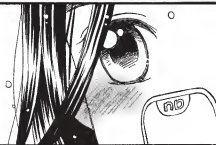


SINCE YOU
GAVE ME
YOUR CELL
NUMBER, I
DECIDED TO
TEXT YOU!



IT GIVES ME A
FUNNY FEELING...

RECEIVING A TEXT FROM
SOMEONE WHO LIKES ME.



I WONDER IF IT FEELS
THE SAME WAY GETTING
A TEXT FROM A GUY.

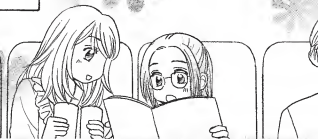


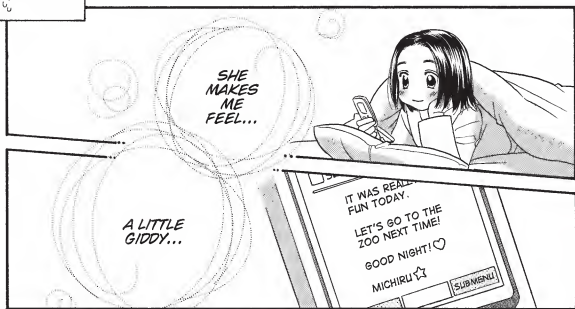
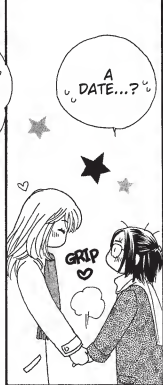
AND
WENT
SHOPPING.

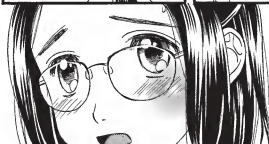
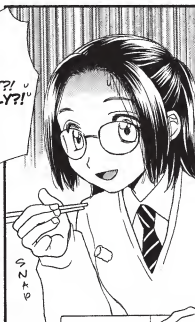
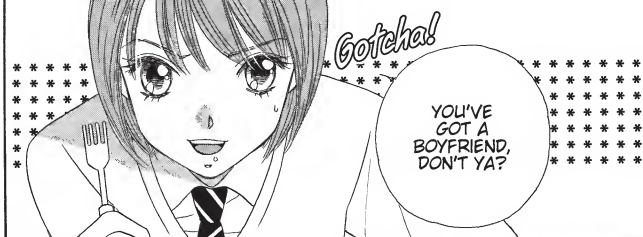
WE
SAW
MOVIES...

AND
WALKED
IN THE
PARK...

FROM
THEN ON,
WE'D HANG
OUT EVERY
SUNDAY.



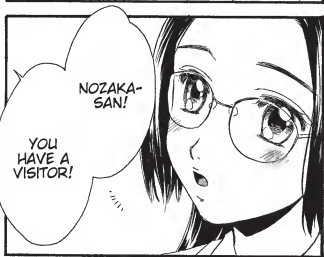
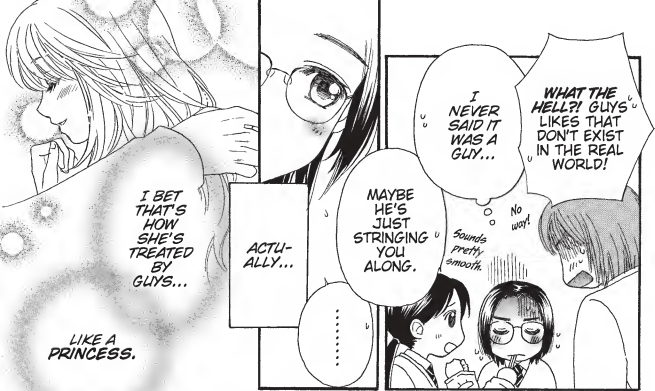




AND WHEN WE'RE WALKING TOGETHER, I'M ALWAYS ON THE INSIDE, PROTECTED FROM PASSING CARS...

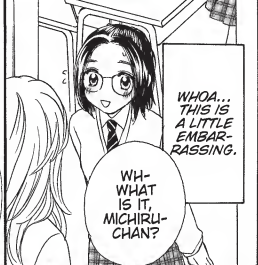
UMM... AT RESTAURANTS, THE CHAIR IS PULLED OUT BEFORE I SIT DOWN...

WELL, FIRST OF ALL, I'M DATING A GIRL, NOT A GUY...



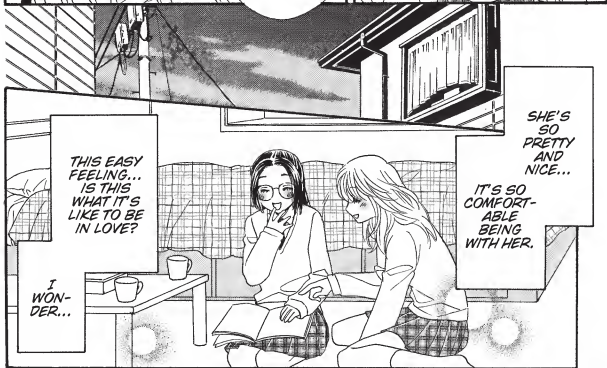


WANT
TO COME
OVER TO
MY HOUSE
TODAY?



WHOA...
THIS IS
A LITTLE
EMBAR-
RASSING.

WH-
WHAT
IS IT,
MICHIRU-
CHAN?

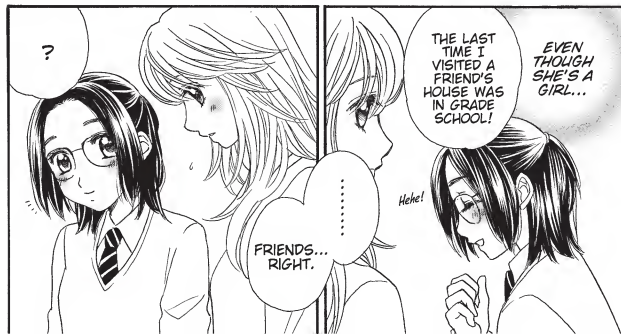


THIS EASY
FEELING...
IS THIS
WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO BE
IN LOVE?

SHE'S
SO
PRETTY
AND
NICE...

IT'S SO
COMFORT-
ABLE
BEING
WITH HER.

I
WON-
DER...



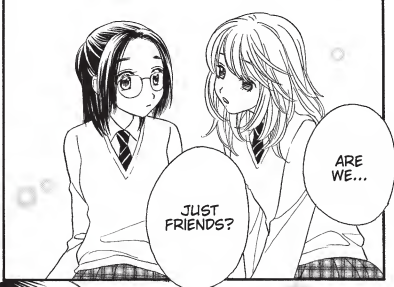
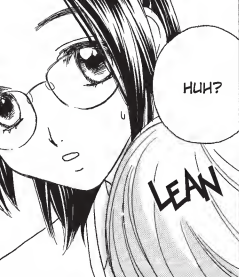
?

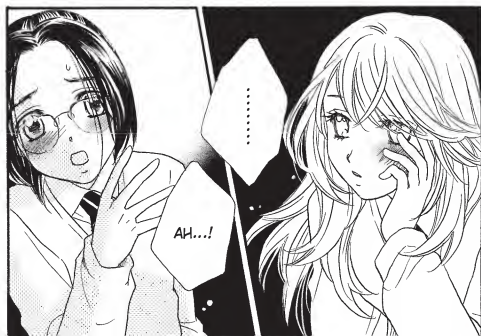
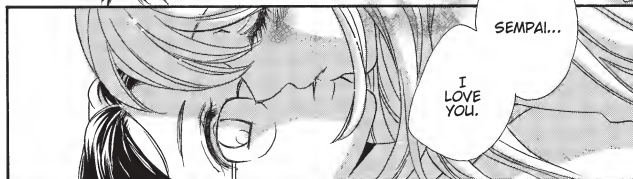
THE LAST
TIME I
VISITED A
FRIEND'S
HOUSE WAS
IN GRADE
SCHOOL!

EVEN
THOUGH
SHE'S A
GIRL...

Hehe!

FRIENDS...
RIGHT.





SLAP
!



IT'S
NOT
ENDO'S
FAULT...



SHE
TOLD ME
FROM
THE
START
THAT SHE
LIKED ME...

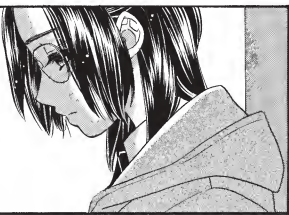
BUT I
NEVER
TOOK HER
FEELINGS
SERIOUSLY.

I'M...

SUCH A
JERK.

THAT
WE'RE
BOTH
GIRLS.

.....



I WAS JUST
HAPPY TO HAVE
SOMEONE WHO
LOVED ME.

IT FELT
SO GOOD
TO BE
LOVED...

BUT I WAS
TAKING
ADVANTAGE
OF HER.



NO...

I WAS
ONLY
THINKING...

ABOUT
MYSELF.

I'M AN AWFUL PERSON.



GOOD
MORNING,
NOZAKACCHI.

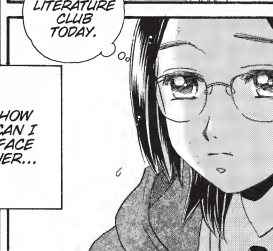
SOMETHING
WRONG?
YOU SEEM
A LITTLE
BIT DOWN
TODAY.

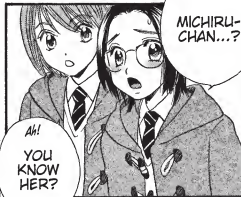
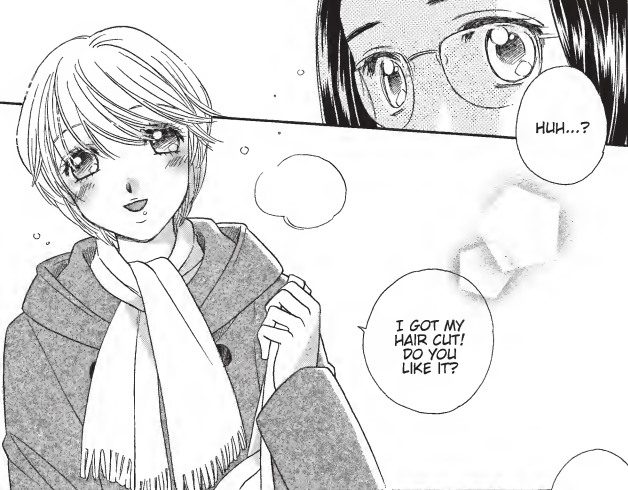
NOZAKA-
SEMPAI.

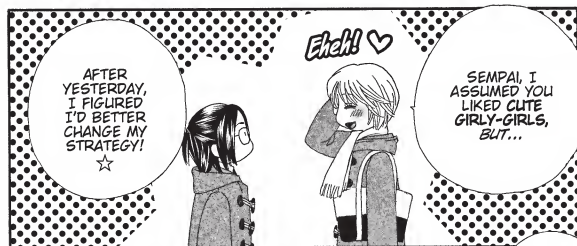
AFTER
WHAT I
DID?

WE HAVE
LITERATURE
CLUB
TODAY.

HOW
CAN I
FACE
HER...









*1912-1926; a transition period in Japanese history between the feudal and modern eras.



EACH
STORY WAS
EVEN MORE
UNBELIEVABLE
AND FANTASTIC
THAN THE
LAST!



EVEN THE
ILLUSTRATIONS
WERE
STRAIGHT
OUT OF
SOMEONE'S
FANTASY!

A GIRL
WORKING
AT A FLOWER
SHOP FALLS
FOR AN OLDER,
DISTINGUISHED
PROFESSOR...

A GIRL WITH
A FATAL LUNG
DISEASE FALLS
HOPELESSLY IN
LOVE WITH THE
SANATORIUM'S
STRAPPING
YOUNG
GARDENER...

A CLERK IN
A BOOKSTORE
FALLS HEAD
OVER HEELS
IN LOVE WITH
A STRUGGLING
STUDENT...



OH,
NOZAKA-
SEMPAI?

I HAD
TO KNOW
MORE
ABOUT THE
AUTHOR
BEHIND THE
STORIES.

← Club Member

THAT'S
HER...

OVER
THERE.

I DIDN'T
THINK
ANYONE
OUTSIDE
OUR CLUB
WOULD
READ IT!

I hid all
the extra
copies so no
one would
find out!

B-
BUT...

NOZAKACCHI...
YOU WRITE
THAT KIND
OF STUFF?

Urkk!

I just
couldn't get
enough!

I
THOUGHT
THEY WERE
ADORABLE.
I WAS
HOOKED!

I
TRACKED
DOWN ALL
THE OLD
ISSUES AND
DEVoured
THEM.

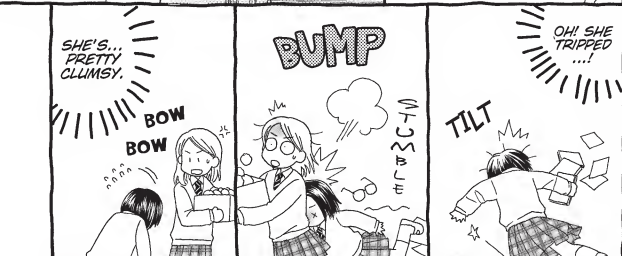


SHE'S
KIND OF
PLAIN.

SH-SHE'S
NOTHING
LIKE THE
HEROINES
IN HER
STORIES...

TAP

TAP



SHE'S...
PRETTY
CLUMSY.

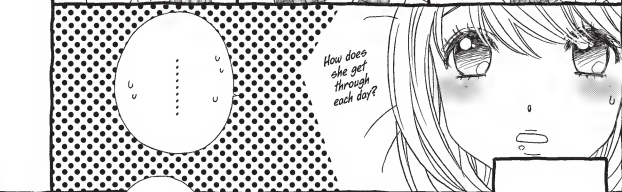
BOW
BOW

BUMP

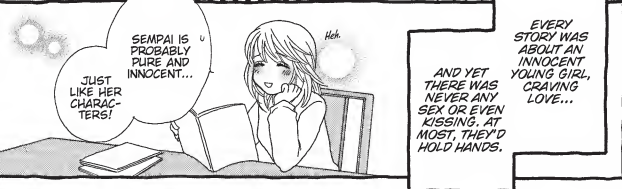
How does
she get
through
each day?

TILT

OH! SHE
TRIPPED
...!



How does
she get
through
each day?



JUST
LIKE HER
CHARAC-
TERS!

SEMPAI IS
PROBABLY
PURE AND
INNOCENT...

Heh.

AND YET
THERE WAS
NEVER ANY
SEX OR EVEN
KISSING. AT
MOST, THEY'D
HOLD HANDS.

EVERY
STORY WAS
ABOUT AN
INNOCENT
YOUNG GIRL,
CRAVING
LOVE...



THEN,
ONE
NIGHT...

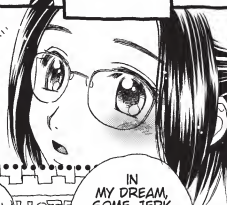
I HAD
A DREAM
ABOUT
YOU.

Wheel!

TRIP

There
she
goes
again.

SEMPAI
GOT INTO
SO MANY
ACCIDENTS.
I KEPT AN
EYE ON
HER, JUST
IN CASE.



UH...

AND
FROM
THAT DAY
ON I...
I...

MICHRU-
CHAN...

BA-
THUMP

BUT I
SHOT IN
WITH THIS
AMAZING
DROPKICK
AND SAVED
YOU!

WHAT?!

OH.

IN
MY DREAM,
SOME JERK
WAS TRYING
TO GET
SEMPAI TO
GO TO A
LOVE
HOTEL.



SEMPAI IS
SO SWEET
AND PURE!
GUYS CAN
SENSE THAT!
THEY'LL BE
ALL OVER
YOU!

NO MATTER
HOW PLAIN
AND CLUMSY
YOU ARE,
YOU'LL STILL
BE INVITED TO
PARTIES AND
BLIND DATES.

AND
THEN
YOU'RE
OFF TO
COLLEGE!

YOU
GRADUATE
NEXT
YEAR!

SEMPAI,
I WORRY
ABOUT
YOU
SOOO
MUCH!

INNOCENCE
LOST!



WAGGISH

YOU
HAVE TO
BE MORE
CAREFUL!

DON'T
LET YOUR
GUARD DOWN
IN SOMEONE
ELSE'S HOUSE,
ESPECIALLY
IF THEY'RE
INTERESTED
IN YOU.

LIKE LAST
NIGHT! IF IT
HAD BEEN A
GUY INSTEAD OF
ME, HE WOULD'VE
TAKEN ADVANTAGE
OF YOU!

BUT YOU
DO HAVE A
HARD TIME
SAYING
NO.

THANKS
FOR
WORRYING
ABOUT
ME, BUT...

I'M NOT
THAT
CLUMSY.

There
there...

R-
RIGHT...!!!

Urk...

ACTUALLY...

No...

You're
lucky,
Noza-
kacchi.

What a
sweet
girl!

I think...

SO BASICALLY,
YOU WANNA
PROTECT NOZA-
KACCHI BECAUSE
YOU'RE WORRIED
ABOUT HER?

SORRY
TO BUTT
IN...

I WANT
TO GET
TO HER
BEFORE
ANYONE
ELSE...

Heh

'CAUSE
SHE'S
MINE.



I JUST
WANT TO LAY
MY CLAIM ON
HER BEFORE
SOME GUY
DOES.

POINK
POINK



PLEASE
BELIEVE
ME.

I
REALLY
AM IN
LOVE
WITH
YOU...

.....

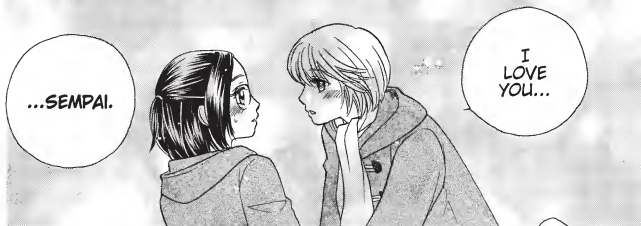


OH...
WELL,
GOOD
LUCK
WITH
THAT.

See
ya.

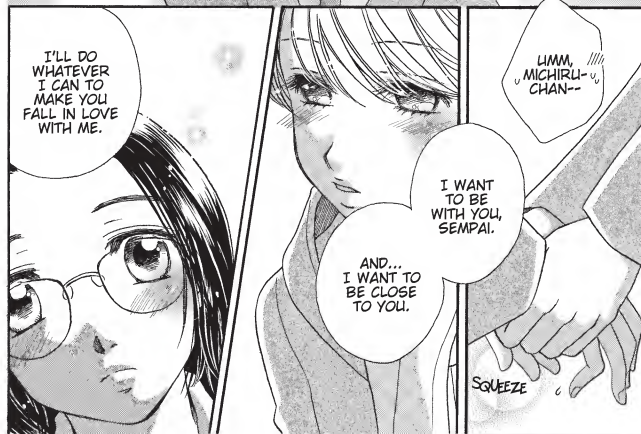
HEY!
DON'T
LEAVE
ME!

I won't tell
anyone—
I promise.



...SEMPAI.

I
LOVE
YOU...



I'LL DO
WHATEVER
I CAN TO
MAKE YOU
FALL IN LOVE
WITH ME.

UHM,
MICHIRU-
CHAN--

I WANT
TO BE
WITH YOU,
SEMPAI.

AND...
I WANT TO
BE CLOSE
TO YOU.

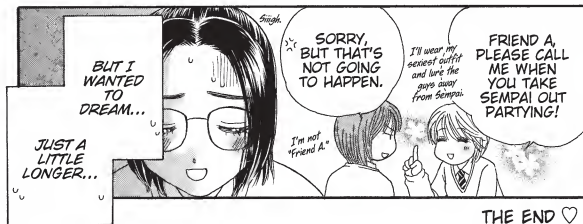
SQUEEZE





BEFORE I ONLY DREAMT ABOUT SUCH THINGS.

BUT NOW...



THE END ♥



There may be
a few people who
only bought volume 1, but
I only wrote comments
in volume 2. Sorry. I'm
really glad to see this
series released...
but... but...

TREMBLE
TREMBLE

BA-
THUMP
BA-
THUMP
SOB
SOB



Good afternoon,
this is Milk Moringa!
Thank you for purchasing
"Kisses, Sighs,
and Cherry
Blossom Pink"
Volumes 1
and 2!!

HUFF
HUFF

These volumes are a
compilation of old short
stories from many years
ago, unpublished episodes,
and new material. Two of
the unpublished episodes
are in volume 1. I hope
you enjoyed them!!

Hehe.

Gotta
drink
away the
shame...



When I compare my past works
with my current works, I don't think
I've improved much... But... Looking
back at my old artwork is
pure torture.

GLUG

After
nine
years...
My
art...

It's
okay!
Your
style's
consistent.

Hasn't
changed
much.

Maybe I
should switch
to digital.



GASP
GASP

Comic
Pages



My friend always says nice things.

The first five episodes in
volume 2 continue Hitomi and
Nana's story. The episodes
from volume 1 and the last
two episodes of this volume
were previously printed from
2003 to 2006. 2003...
so long ago!

In that time...
Nine
years?!

An elementary
student becomes
an adult!!

0 years
old

10 years
old

Middle-
aged
cat!!!

A little
kitty





Before, I wanted to
make these girls
cause a little
more trouble

What?
Ho?

Six years ago, I had
a plan in mind for
Nana and Hitomi, but
when I actually drew
their story it turned
out quite different.
The message I wanted
to convey had changed,
so I rolled with it and
enjoyed the process.

But I
ran out
of pages!

Even the "latest" of
the old batch was six
years ago... So when I
drew the new stories,
I tried to match that
style... Did it come
out all right?

“ ”

I look
a little
strange,
don't I?



It took a while, but I was able to tie
up a lot of loose ends and make
Kisses, Sighs, and Cherry Blossom
Pink into a complete story.

✿ Editors Niwano-san & Nonaka-san

✿ People who assisted: Mimi-
chin, A-yo chan, Furiko-
tan, and other helpers.

✿ Publishing staff who helped to
print and sell these books.

✿ Fans who waited patiently
for the additional episodes!

Everyone who read these books.

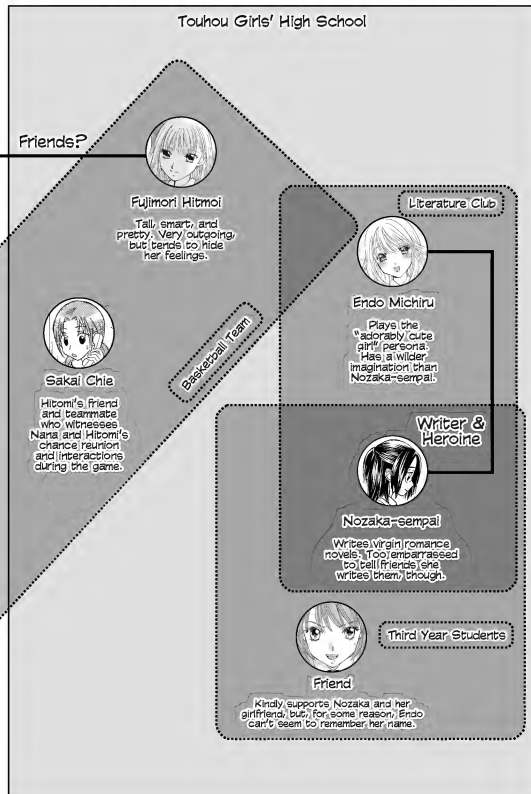
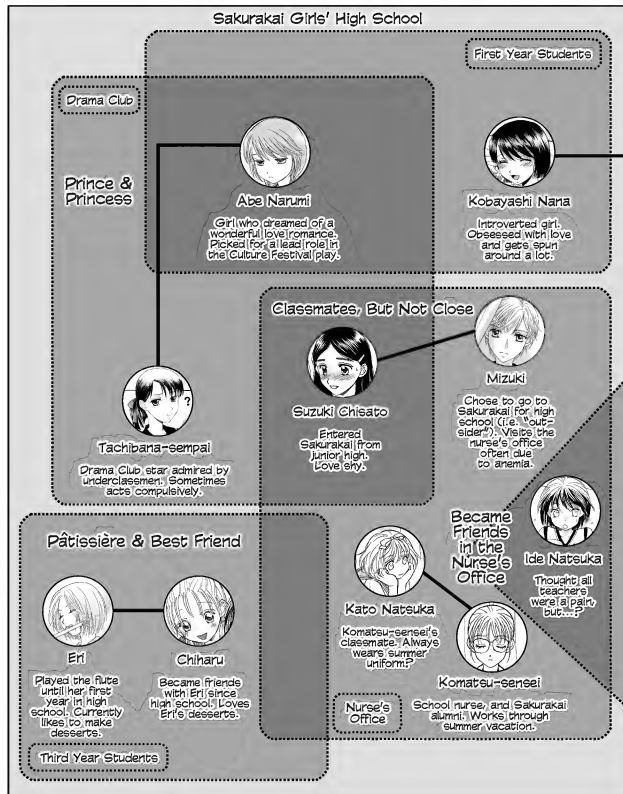
Thank you
very much!



Milk Morinaga
April 2012



Kisses, Sighs, and Cherry Blossom Pink



SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Kisses, Sighs, and Cherry Blossom Pink

story and art by **MILK MORINAGA**

VOLUME 2

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ADAPTATION
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LETTERING AND RETOUCH
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COVER DESIGN
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KISSES, SIGHS, AND CHERRY BLOSSOM PINK VOL. 2

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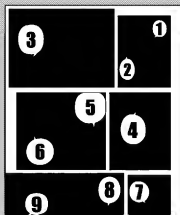
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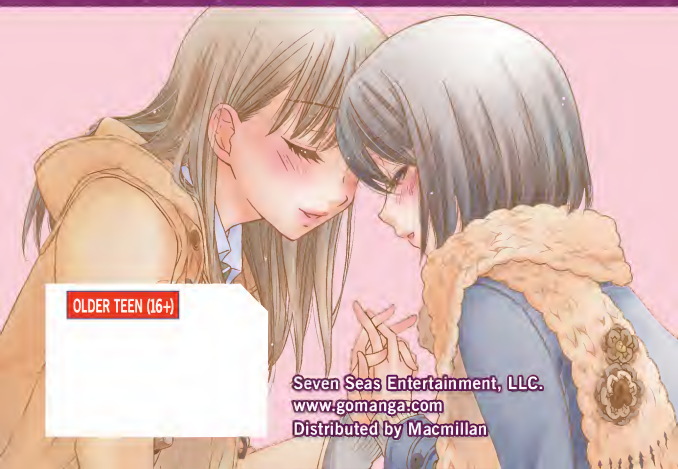
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but it's the way manga is read.



**From Milk Morinaga, the
author of the *New York Times*
bestselling manga *Girl Friends*!**

When the cherry blossoms bloom it means the start of another school year—and for the girls at Sakurakai High, it signals the birth of new dreams, fears, and relationships. In this *yuri* romance collection, lifelong friends become lovers, the ghosts of old crushes are put to rest, and hearts break and are mended. Fourteen stories of love between girls are interspersed throughout this heartfelt and adorably illustrated manga omnibus edition.



OLDER TEEN (16+)

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